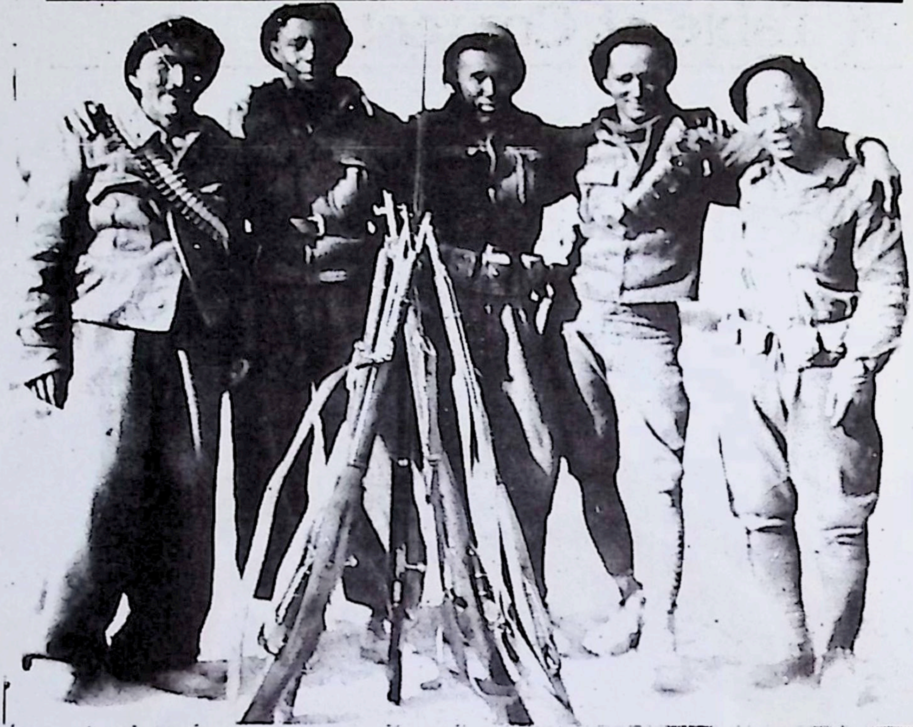
Black Americans in the Spanish People's War Against Fascism

1936 – 1939

United and Integrated



Integrated and united against fascism in the A.L.B. Front left to right: Mexican, Afro-American, Philipino, Cuban, Japanese-American.

Afro-Americans returning from Spain on H.M.S. Ansonia.

Comrades-in-arms on their return from the battlefields.

EDITED BY JOE BRANDT

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Introduction
People's War for a Democratic Spain 1936–1939

by Vaughn Love

Over 3,300 anti-fascist Americans including 80 to 100 Blacks from the United States volunteered and joined with the heroic Spanish people in their resistance to fascism's attack on Democratic Republican Spain.

Sixteen hundred volunteeres died in Spain.

Hundreds in the second World War and the remaining ranks continue to shrink due to natural causes.

At the very outset of this war for democracy, it became obvious to the world that the struggle to stop and defeat fascism in Spain was a first step in military resistance to prevent the fascist unfolding of World War II.

These tens of thousands of volunteers, after being organized in military formations have become known historically as the International Brigades* (see page 63).

The Abraham Lincoln Battalion (ALB) made an historic contribution to the Spanish peoples' struggle for a democratic Spain and by its solidarity with the world anti-fascist movement and joining with all representatives of all races, creeds and color, it gave our country, the United States of America, its first completely integrated military formation, its first Afro-American Battalion Commander, Afro-American Company Commanders and non-jim crow military units.

> "... from the very beginning, the Abraham Lincoln Brigade (Battalion) was an integrated unit. The concepts of real freedom embodied in the general anti-fascist philosophy of the men of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade (ALB) precluded any ideas of racial superiority, or minority discrimination. Such ideas were utterly alien to the Americans and represented, in essence, the enemy they had come so far to fight."
>
> *The Abraham Lincoln Brigade*
> Arthur H. Landis, Citadel Press

The fascist axis had gambled upon its ability to cause disaffection among Black masses by various subversive and provocative acts against Black soldiers and citizens, but the understanding of anti-fascism was very great among the Black masses and they were determined to help win the war against the Axis at all costs. The allied military victory over fascism in World War II was a heavy blow to fascism and all forms of racism. However, continued reaction and racism constitute obstacles to peace and democracy in the world today.

The appearance of the International Brigades at Jarama in February 1937 helped to stop the fascists at the gates of Madrid, where the heroic Spanish people with the support and solidarity of all progressive humanity held back the tide of fascist barbarism for three years.

International Anti-Fascist Unity

The faint-hearted said that we had lost in Spain, that our fight had been in vain but the opposite is true. The war against fascism was not lost—only one of the many battles of the anti-fascist war that was yet to be fought but despite that, it exploded the myth of fascist invincibility that was being touted by the fascists and their friends in the media of the so-called "democratic" capitalist countries. The battle in Spain was the culmination of a peoples' struggle for a democratic way of life against an entrenched, vested interest. This first military battle of the anti-fascist war could have ended in victory for the people and in the defeat of the native Spanish fascists, had the fraudulent "non-intervention" "neutrality policy" of the so-called "democratic" countries Britain and France, supported by U.S. reactionaries, not encouraged the Hitler-Mussolini Axis tò invade Spain with their military forces.

The war for the military extermination of fascism began in Spain and, despite the loss of that single battle fought against tremendous odds, the anti-fascist war led by the glorious Red Army of the mighty Soviet people and its allies continued on:

FROM MADRID TO STALINGRAD TO VICTORY

We present below a digest of statements, letters, articles and interviews with and about Black-American veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion (VALB) and a salute to the Black Americans who fought for democracy in Spain.

- A tribute and eulogy to the dead by Ernest Hemingway.
- Brief sketches and photos of a representative few heroic dead and those still alive.
- International visitors to Spain.
- The moving farewell message to the International Brigaders from the heroic Spanish people's Communist leader, Dolores Ibarurri "Pasionaria."
- Finally, a report on the 42nd (February 25, 1979) Anniversary Dinner of the Veterans Abraham Lincoln Battalion (VALB) honoring the Black anti-fascist fighters of the VALB and the program presented at the dinner.

Eulogy to the Dead

Ernest Hemingway

Note: *Celebrating the continuing success of the democratic struggles in post-Franco Spain, one thousand New Yorkers gathered on February 25th, 1979, on the occasion of the 42nd Anniversary of the V.A.L.B. to pay tribute and to extend special recognition to the Black Americans of the V.A.L.B. who fought heroically in the first integrated U.S.A. military force against fascism, in defense of democratic Republican Spain and to rally the veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion in their determination to raise high the banner of struggle against growing rascism and oppression of Black Americans.*

This was also a demonstration and expression of international solidarity with the fighting and resisting Blacks of South Africa against apartheid and in support of the victorious march to victory for independence of the Zimbabwean guerilla resistance fighters.

The heroism of these Black American fighters of the V.A.L.B. united with their white comrades in arms, fighting and dying on the anti-fascist battlefields is forever inscribed in the never forgotten "Eulogy to the Dead" (printed below) by the great American anti-fascist author and humanist, Ernest Hemingway.

"The dead sleep cold in Spain tonight. Snow blows through the olive groves, sifting against the tree roots. Snow drifts over the mounds with the small headboards (where there was time for headboards). The olive trees are thin in the cold wind because their lower branches were once cut to cover tanks, and the dead sleep cold in the small hills above the Jarama river. It was cold that February when they died there and since then the dead have not noticed the change of seasons.

"It is two years now since the Lincoln Battalion held for four and one-half months along the heights of the Jarama, and the first American dead have been a part of the earth of Spain for a long time now.

"The dead sleep cold in Spain tonight and they will sleep cold all this winter as the earth sleeps cold with them. But in the spring the rain will come to make the earth kind again. The wind will blow soft over the hills from the south. The black trees will come to life with small green leaves, and there will be blossoms on the apple trees along the Jarama river. This spring the dead will feel the earth beginning to live again.

"For our dead are a part of the earth of Spain now and the earth of Spain can never die. Each winter it will seem to die and each spring it will come alive again. Our dead will live with it forever.

"Just as the earth can never die, neither will those who have ever been free return to slavery. The peasants who worked the earth where our dead lie know what those dead died for. There was time during the war for them to learn these things, and there is forever for them to remember them in.

"Our dead live in the hearts and minds of the Spanish peasants, of the Spanish workers of all the good simple honest people who believed in and fought for the Spanish Republic. And as long as all our dead live in the Spanish earth, and they will live as long as the earth lives, no system of tyranny ever will prevail in Spain.

"The Fascists may spread over the land, blasting their way with the weight of metal brought from other countries. They may advance aided by traitors and by cowards. They may destroy cities and villages and try to hold the people in slavery.

"The Spanish people will rise again as they have always risen before against tyranny.

"The dead do not need to rise. They are a part of the earth now and the earth can never be conquered. For the earth endureth forever. It will outlive all systems of tyranny.

"Those who have entered it honorably, and no men ever entered earth more honorably than those who died in Spain, have already achieved immortality."

Ernest Hemingway
February 14, 1939

February 23, 1937 the Lincoln Battalion received orders to enter the first lines of attack and defense on the Jarama front. This was a period of the most sustained bloody fighting in the Jarama battle, causing the battalion the most serious casualties.

The fiercest fighting took place at Pingarrón Hill near San Martin de la Vega. More than a thousand Killed and wounded of the enemy were left behind when they finally retreated.

The February battles by the river Jarama had a different character from all those that had been fought previously. On both sides considerable forces confronted each other. For the rebel offensive 25 to 30,000 men were concentrated; 10,000 of which were Germans and Italians.

The fighting was fierce and sustained. Both sides fought savagely for each foot of ground. Battles of a prolonged character—a month of almost uninterrupted fighting. It was a battle of severe tests for both sides.

Of almost 500 Lincolns who went over the top in this action, 127 were killed and about 200 wounded.

Among those killed was the first Afro-American anti-fascist Alonzo Watson.

We reprint below a story from the DAILY WORKER June 2, 1937 reporting the Memorial Meeting held in New York by the Harlem Division of the Communist Party:

from the DAILY WORKER

First Black American Casualty in Spain

Memorial for Watson in Harlem to Mark Spanish Aid Week

(Daily Worker Harlem Bureau)

A memorial meeting to Alonzo Watson, Negro worker killed while serving in the Lincoln Battalion in Spain, will feature "Spanish Aid" week's activities by the Harlem Division of the Communist Party, it was announced today.

The meeting, which will wind up a series of parades, demonstrations throughout the community, will be held on June 14, at 8 P.M., in the Congress Casino, 168 W. 132 St.

James W. Ford, Negro Communist leader and secretary of the

Division, will be the principal speaker. Ford returned a week ago from a tour of Barcelona, Valencia and of the Loyalist trenches around Madrid, where he talked with members of the Lincoln Battalion.

SPANISH AID WEEK ON

"Spanish Aid" week, began on May 30 and will continue through June 9, under the auspices of the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, 381 Fourth Ave. It is being observed on a nationwide scale.

On June 4, the lower Harlem Section of the Communist Party will hold a mass meeting in Park Palace, at 110th St. and Fifth Ave., featuring Ford as the main speaker. Others who will address the meeting will be: Frank Quintana, organizer of the lower Harlem Party, and Jose Santiago, one of the lower Harlem leaders.

TORCHLIGHT PARADE

Following this meeting on June 9, the lower Harlem section will hold a torchlight parade, counteracting a fascist-led march in the territory last Sunday.

The East Harlem section of the Party has scheduled a "Spanish Aid" meeting in the Esthonian Hall, W. 115 St., on the evening of June 4.

Numerous open-air meetings will be held by the Washington Heights section of the Party during this week.

Joining in support of the Spanish people's fight against fascism, the United Aid for Peoples of African Descent, 200 W. 135th St., has also scheduled a meeting at Rockland Palace, 155th St. and 8th Ave., on June 11. Max Yergan, Negro director of the International Committee on African Affairs, and James W. Ford will be guest speakers.

Note: Following is an abridged article by the late Ben Davis, Jr., member National Committee CPUSA and first elected Black Communist member of the New York City Council.
(From the DAILY WORKER July 14, 1938)

The Death of a Black Communist

by Benjamin J. Davis, Jr.

Doug Roach, Negro hero of Lincoln Brigade, dies here.

Douglas Roach, valiant son of the Negro people and one of the outstanding heroes of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Spain, died of pneumonia in Mt. Sinai hospital yesterday.

Affectionately known to his friends and comrades as "Doug," he died at the untimely age of 29. He was a native of Provincetown, Mass., where he was an active member of the Communist Party since 1932—beloved and respected by the labor movement and his community. He graduated from the Massachusetts Agricultural College in Amherst, where he was a star wrestler. At Provincetown High School, he was "ace" end on the football team.

He was one of the first Americans to volunteer in defense of Spanish democracy in the early days of the Madrid siege.

An outstanding member of the Tom Mooney machinegun company, he often carried his machinegun single-handedly during long marches.

At the fierce counter-offensive launched by the fascists at Brunete, he often went for water and supplies for his comrades under heavy fire.

On the Jarama front, he inspired the members of the Lincoln Battalion. Time and again he held his position in the repeated charges of Franco's Moorish cavalry, saving the men in the lines back of him. These were but a few examples of his great courage.

Wounded by shrapnel, he returned to the U.S. He immediately plunged into activity, working in support of trade union organization among seamen. In his spare time, he diligently studied Marxism-Leninism.

I knew Doug Roach. I have felt his infectious enthusiasm, his matchless faith in the will of the people to win over fascism and reaction. When I complimented him on his war record, he said, "Oh, never mind that. Whatever I did, the Party brought it out in me." And knowing him, one can understand very well, despite his modesty, how he made such a distinguished record in Spain.

From Garcia Ortega, famous Spanish writer, in a long article on Doug:

"At Brunete Douglas Roach was wounded by a tank shell, shrapnel piercing his left shoulder. But he continued with the same enthusiasm as always, with the characteristic smile which still brightens his face. He remembers with great emotion the comrades who fell on the field of battle. And he has great confidence in the triumph of the Spanish people."

Upon receipt of his citation, his buddies wrote on the daily company trench bulletin:

"It was not merely his physical strength—he could carry a heavy machine gun over the hills of Brunete when others were too exhausted to walk—it was his moral fibre, his courage which earned him a citation for bravery."

Upon hearing of his death in the USA, Milt Wolff, Battalion Commanding Officer, said:

"To think, he lived through all these damn bullets here and a damn bug got him back home. That bug was got by Doug in Spain, fighting for democracy."

From left to right Douglas Roach, Robert Minor, U.S. Communist leader and Klaus, Brigadier Armourer.

VOLONTAIRES DES BRIGADES INTERNATIONALES
TOMBES EN HEROS
POUR LA LIBERTE DU PEUPLE ESPAGNOL
LE BIEN ETRE ET LE PROGRES DE L'HUMANITE

Remember This

I've heard you sobbing in the night
And know your tears are not for fright
But for the dead. Those Comrades lost
Who through this day have fought beside you all this way

Beneath the sun's half blinding heat,
Until they fell upon this wheat, beside these olive trees,
In all this hell sound and thirst,
The whining steel and blinding burst of bomb and shell;
They still came on.
With blistered feet and shoulders bent,
With vagrant thoughts that often went to home and peace
And we must weep. For Oliver and Jack we could not keep,
Nor can we get them back.
I cannot say that they've been torn
To some far place and there reborn to live again;
But mark you this—they still live on—as men.
For we must take the strength they leave
And to the goal they set must cleave
With ever greater unity—
"All men shall now be FREE".

I hear you sobbing in the night,
But in the day remember this
That we are they.

—William P. Smith, Jr.
Lincoln Battalion

From *Volunteer for Liberty*, August 9, 1937

Anti-fascist Black Americans

by Victoria Missick

It is not widely known, but among the 3,200 U.S. volunteers to join the people of Spain in their heroic fight against fascism in 1936–39, there were between 80 and 100 Afro-Americans. What's more, the Abraham Lincoln Battalion, as the U.S. volunteers were called, was the first non-segregated U.S. military force. In addition, in the Spanish Civil War, for the first time Afro-Americans were given leadership commands over U.S. troops. Thus, the Abraham Lincoln Brigade contributed not only to the fight against fascism in Spain, but to the fight against racism in the U.S.

World Magazine interviewed two Black veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion, James Yates and Vaughn Love, who live in New York. Both were in Spain for more than 2½ years.

Following the war, Yates became an active member in the International Brotherhood of Railroad Porters and head of the Chelsea-Village NAACP branch in New York. He is presently writing a book about Black participation in the Spanish Civil War. Love recently retired after working 14 years in communications.

During the years before Yates and Love went to fight in Spain the U.S. was in turmoil. The Depression took a heavy toll on the working class: poverty, unemployment and starvation were everywhere. This was also a time of heightened racism. Black workers suffered particularly severely. Their wages averaged 30% less than those of whites, and unemployment was twice as high. Also there were many lynchings. From 1929–33, some 150 Black Americans were lynched. Love witnessed three of them in Mississippi during a short visit there.

But it was also a time of great mass struggles. On March 6, 1930, more than 1,250,000 Americans demonstrated nationwide in the great Hunger Marches demanding "work or wages." And on May 3, 1932, thousands of World War I veterans demonstrated for veterans benefits as well as unemployment insurance and social security, which did not exist at that time.

Yates, who was born in Mississippi, was active in the struggles of the unemployment councils for home relief, the organizing of the unorganized and for social security, while also participating in the fight against the racist frameups of the Scottsboro Youths and Angelo Herndon.

Love, born in Rhea County, Tennessee, where he was a coal miner at the age of 14, came to New York in 1929, where he worked in the League of Struggle for Negro Rights. "From the time I was a child there was a movement on the part of Black Americans for full recognition of their rights, for full opportunity to advance themselves, and this was gaining momentum year after year," Love said, adding, "When I came to New York in 1929 I found large numbers of Blacks searching for opportunities in art, music and many other fields."

Yates and Love both saw the rise of fascism in Europe as a threat to Black Americans. "In 1936," Yates recalled, "Hitler refused to present Jesse Owens the Olympic Gold Medal in Berlin, Germany." (He won four that year.) That very same year, he continued, "Hitler supported Schmelling in his fight against Joe Louis, because he said 'Blacks had no brains'." Two years later Louis beat Schmelling in the first round, becoming the world boxing champion.

Love said, "When Hitler came along with his Nuremburg laws, we knew that this meant death to us of the darker races. Anti-fascism had a very wide appeal."

The two men recalled that many Afro-Americans "went from drug store to drug store collecting medical supplies in Harlem, and over a ton was collected," when Mussolini invaded Ethiopia in October 1935.

When the war in Spain broke out, Love said, "We didn't know too much about the Spaniards, but we knew that they were fighting against fascism, and that fascism is the enemy of all Black aspirations."

The Spanish monarchists, ousted in the elections and replaced by a republican government, issued a call to fascists the world over for help in overthrowing the new, democratically-elected government, he recalled. The fascists were led by Francisco Franco. Thus, Love said, Spain was invaded by the fascists of Germany, Portugal, Italy, the foreign legion of Spain and mercenary troops of Africa. This was more than a civil war; it was a fight against an international gangup of fascist forces. "They were making inroads against the poorly organized militia made up of volunteers from the unions and mass organizations. They fought valiantly, but they had no supplies or arms; what they *did* have were more volunteers waiting for somebody to fall so they could pick up their guns.

"This heroic stand against fascism aroused a great deal of sympathy for the Spanish people," he said. "By early 1937, international brigades of anti-fascist volunteers from all over the world arrived in Spain. The Abraham Lincoln Battalion came into action on the southern front, known as Jarama. There the front was stabilized by the combined effort of all the anti-fascist brigades, including the Spaniards, and the fascists were stopped although they won in the end."

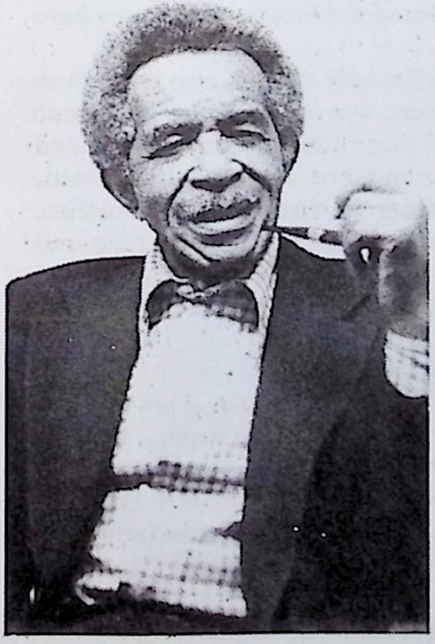
Love cited the various brigades, which included thousands of anti-fascist volunteer fighters. "There were the Makpaps (the MacKenzie-Papineau Brigade) from Canada, the Ernst Thaelmann Brigade from Germany, the Garibaldi from Italy, the British, the Dombrowski Brigade from Poland and the French, who made up the majority, as well as Africans from Spain's colonies, Palestinians and others," he said.

Among the more than 3,200 U.S. volunteers, recalled Yates, were some who traveled 6,000 miles from Los Angeles to fight fascism on Spanish soil.

"I'll never forget December 26, 1936, the day after Christmas," said Yates. "Ninety-six Americans sailed from the port of New York, and among those were a number of Blacks. I would have been among the first group had I not been born in the racist state of Mississippi; they didn't give birth certificates to Black people in those days, so I was delayed."

Yates was among the more than 300 men who sailed to Spain February 20. He pointed out that there were other Blacks in addition to the 80-100 Afro-Americans, but many were of Cuban, Puerto Rican and of other Latin American descent, and they joined the Spanish Army.

Yates and Love both fought in front line combat units. "I was sent to work with the Thaelmann Brigade, and became a truck driver for war supplies," said Yates. The majority of those supplies came from the



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—James Yates

Soviet Union and Mexico, he added.

Recalling other Black volunteers, Yates cited Burt Jackson, who, "because of his skill, became a mapmaker and worked with the 15th combined American, British, Spanish and Latin American Brigades."

"Then there was Knute Frankson, an auto worker from Detroit and an active trade unionist at the Ford Motor plant there," he continued. "He became a chief mechanic because of his experience.

"There were others from St. Louis, North and South Carolina, Chicago, New York and Massachussetts. Many came from Ohio and Harlem. Oliver Law became the first Black in U.S. history to command an all-American unit," Yates said. Law, who was born on a ranch in Texas, had been an organizer in the Chicago stockyards. "He served six years in the U.S. (segregated) army, and when he came out he was still a buck private. Yet, when he went to Spain, he commanded an entire battalion." Law died in the Brunete offensive. He was comparable to one of Spain's most decorated heroes, General Modesto, who began the war as a private and ended it as a general.

Yates continued, "Alonzo Watson was the first Black American to die fighting fascism in Spain. Others who lost their lives there were Morris Wickman of Philadelphia, a Communist Party organizer who became a commissar in the war, and Morris Ransom, who was severely wounded and died in a French hospital in 1938."

"There were others, as well, like Sterling Rochester," Yates said. "At the time the war broke out, he was visiting Moscow, and he left immediately for Spain. He was a member of the Communist Party here until the day he died two years ago.

"Salaria Kee, a Black woman, was the only Black nurse in the war and Dr. Arnold B. Donowa, from Harlem, was an oral surgeon. There were also several Black aviators, including James Peck, a celebrated aviation writer and Pat Roosevelt, a commercial pilot," Yates said.

Love, who was wounded three times in three different battles, said proudly, "Every individual soldier had the personal integrity and ability to do whatever had to be done. We never had a good meal and we had the worst conditions, but we had the solidarity of all the progressive forces."

"Before the guns stopped smouldering in Spain, World War II began when Germany invaded Poland, just five months after the end of the Spanish Civil War," Yates said.

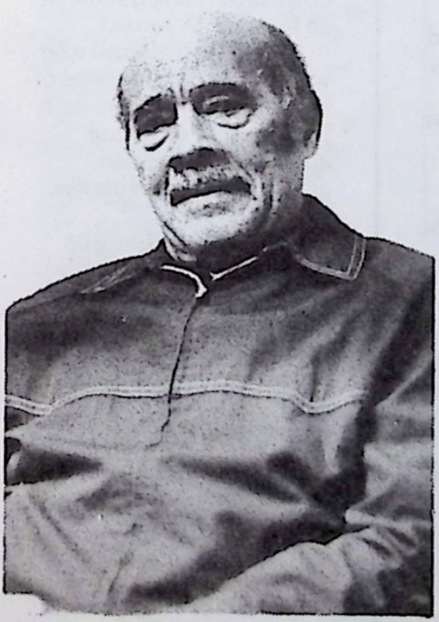
"It wasn't a different war; we were fighting the same enemy," said Love. The Abraham Lincoln Battalion volunteered as a group to fight fascism in World War II. "Of course, it was an interracial outfit, and the government turned it down," he pointed out. "When they refused our volunteer unit, each one of us, Black and white, volunteered for the jim crow army individually. Many Blacks were decorated for their role in World WarII." He noted that by the end of World War II, many Spanish Civil War veterans had fought five or six years. The U.S. armed forces remained segregated until some time around the Korean War.

What has happened to the Lincoln vets? According to Yates, roughly half survived and came home; among the Blacks, slightly more than 50 returned. Many have died since then, especially in the last few years.

After WWII, conditions were difficult, and McCarthyite repression took its toll on Black Spanish Civil War veterans especially. As Love put it, "A Lincoln vet was considered a hard-core subversive." Many, he said, had to remain anonymous in order to make a living.

Although the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and the fighters against fascism in Spain encompassed many people who were not "communist," Love pointed out, "the ruling class in this country has never forgiven the world communist movement for the leading role it played, for having the foresight and understanding to bring things into focus and lead them in the right direction at the right time."

Both Love and Yates cannot forget the role anti-communism and racism played in fascist Spain, as well as here in the U.S. They are both proud of the role they played in thwarting fascism in Spain and in WWII and in their continuing contribution to ending racism here at home.



"We didn't know too much about the Spaniards, but we knew that they were fighting against fascism, and that fascism was the enemy of all Black aspirations."

—Vaughn Love

DAILY WORLD, Feb 24, 1979

Profiles—

In 1934, she graduated Harlem Hospital Training School. Assigned to service in the hospital's obstetrical division, she came face to face with the desperate conditions in a Black community hospital. Overcrowdedness, understaffed. One nurse in charge of a 50 baby and maternity-nursery ward. One hundred and fifty feedings; one hundred and fifty changes and one nurse to do it.

Such conditions, together with the lynching of Afro-Americans, discrimination in education and on jobs, lack of hospital facilities, deteriorating housing—all such conditions led her to associate withthe progressive nurses, to attend lectures and discussions on civic affairs, local national and international and thus she learned to understand the relationship of Harlem's conditions to events in Europe, Africa, German fascism, Ethiopia and the fascist racist attacks on Blacks, Slavs and Jews.

When fascist Italy invaded Ethiopia, she joined groups of Harlem nurses who gathered and sent tons of medical supplies to Ethiopia. She helped organize a 75-bed field hospital for Ethiopia's troops resisting Mussolini's fascist invaders.

When Hitler-Mussolini moved into Spain to support the Franco fascist assault on Republican Spain, she together with over 100 Afro-American anti-fascists joined with thousands of US white anti-fascists in support of Spanish democracy.

On March 27, 1937, she sailed from New York with the second American medical unit of 12 nurses and physicians. She was the only Afro-American nurse in this group, and in the 15th Brigade.

Her name: **SALARIA KEE.**

In October, 1937, during the attack by the ALB on Fuentes del Ebro in the Aragon front, he hid most of the day within three yards of the fascist army in trenches.

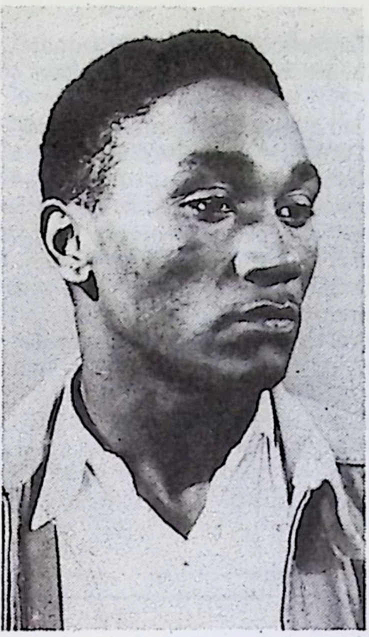
He had taken cover behind a Republican burned-out tank unable to go forward or retreat.

In the Ebro offensive he was leading two sections of his company together with Jim Lardner escorting many captured fascist army prisoners across the Ebro river.

The heavy fighting of July, 1938 during the Ebro offensive on the Gandesa Villaba sector front this third company sargeant, a courageous fighter in every action, received a bullet through the shoulder.

He has since died in New York City.

His name: **SGT. JOE TAYLOR.**



He left for Spain in the summer of 1937. Became Commander of a machine gun section in the Makenzie-Papineau Battalion (Canadian) Machine Gun Company. He had fallen in action together with two-thirds of his gun crew on October 13, 1937, at Fuentes de Ebro leading his machine gun section during the Aragon offensive. He got killed while leaving his cover to aid a wounded soldier. A fascist bullet got him while moving the wounded man to safety.

His name: MILTON HERNDON (brother of Angelo Herndon, a Young Communist League leader and top organizer in the Unemployed and Black People's Rights Movement in the early '30s in the South).

He served with discipline, dignity and courage. He was liked. He was respected. He was:

"A comrade whose qualities were deep and pervasive. . . A demonstration of this was given by him as witness for VALB in the prosecution before the late Subversive Activities Control Board (SACB) 1954.

". . . was one of the most effective witnesses of that long era of the Unamerican Inquisition. . . .

"[He] under cross-examination remained what he was and what he said flowed directly and lucidly from his life's experiences related simply and without sentimentality. This was anything but easy, especially for a Black man and in the supercharged political lynch-atmosphere of the era. The prosecuting attorneys were young, bright, alert, and prepared. . . . [he] met and speared their well-planned attacks so cleanly that they hung limp.

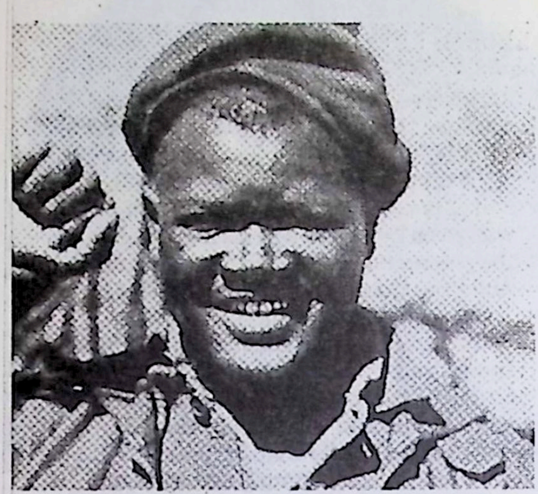
". . . [he] was cross-examined on arrests and/or convictions in California. His narration of what it meant to be unemployed, penniless and young in the Great Depression unrolled with such classic and telling simplicity that it became a veritable 'J'accuse,' the condemnation of his condemners and all they represented.

"The prosecutors spun out that [he] was fervently opposed to fascism and sought to extract the implication that in taking up arms against fascism he had thus acted against the interests of the U.S. His answer was that, on the contrary, defense of Republican Spain was defense of the American people.

"It became clearer and clearer that the prosecutors were becoming less and less inclined to tangle further with him. In the end they were glad just to be rid of him. He was too much the exemplary 'premature anti-fascist' for them. He vindicated the Abraham Lincoln Battalion."

His name: CRAWFORD MORGAN.
He died in New York.

Volunteer, December, 1976.



"Fantastico" was the affectionate nickname the Spanish soldiers gave him.

With his pitching arm, he hurled hand grenades with deadliness. Baseball-trained, raring to pitch and always in the front lines, he tossed the bombs being passed to him by the Spanish troops lined up behind him. His citation for bravery was hailed by his admirers particularly the young Spanish troops as their "Americano" hero.

His name: LUCHELL McDANIELS.

He was a New York city commercial flyer but being Black he had two strikes against him immediately. The first to be fired and the last to be hired.

He knew the odds the hard way.

To him the lash of capitalist exploitation has an inscribed meaning, inscribed on his mind, remembering the lash his father and grandfather kept talking to him about in the days of slavery, long, long ago but not too long to forget.

He began to hate the system and slowly began to make the connection.

One day while on the Home Relief Bureau line, he heard of a trip to Spain to take a lick at the "enemy." It was a different name but the same enemy.

'When and how quickly can I sign up, bud?' 'Come with me, was the smiling answer.

He went. He served well, with discipline and courage. Finally, in 1938 on August 23rd, the day before the British Battalion was to take over the cursed Hill 666 on the Sierra Cabals (the hills of widows, orphans, and dreaming sweethearts).

It was on this hill that Bianca (the best soldier of the outfit) had his head severed by a shell and the Communist flyer, the Black Patrick Roosevelt lost his leg.

What a sad coincidence. On the following day, the entire XV Brigade was relieved by the Spanish 53rd Division!

His name: PATRICK ROOSEVELT.

When reading the history books of the ALB on the battles in Spain, one cannot escape his name.

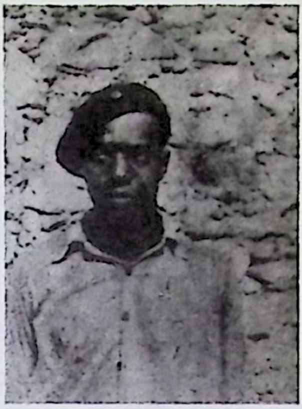
No matter what the battle, where the place, what the name, one never misses his name among the wounded, the lost, the recipient of citation and exceptional acts of courage. He is there in print.

During the Ebro offensive this third company sergeant was wounded—a bullet punctured his chest during the attack ont he hills outside of Villalba de los Arcos on the Gandesa—Villalba front of the Ebro offensive.

On August 6, 1938, after thirteen days of constant fighting the ALB moved from hills overlooking Gandesa city, leaving the city of Corbera.

The first phase of the Ebro offensive was over. Among the numerous heroic fighters proposed by the commanders for recipient for citations

His name: SGT. THOMAS PAGE.



Served with the Brigade Commisariat as topographer.

After returning from Spain, he and Walter Garland jointly organized and led UNAVA—United Negro Allied Veterans of America. He is shown on the picture on the extreme left standing with members of the 15th Brigade Topographers Detachment.

Already in his days during his stay in Spain, he expressed talent as an artist. Upon his return to the United States, he attended artist's schools, became a very talented Black artist, working on some of the top Black journals and finally settled in the South.

His name: BERT JACKSON.

THE NEGRO SOLDIER

1947

By Bert Jackson

To write of the Negro soldier in the American Army is fairly simple for one has only to look at the records of the 92nd Division, the 93rd Division, the 332nd Fighter Group or any of the myriad service units to which Negroes are assigned. But to write of the Negroes in Spain presents a real problem for in Spain, as we all know, there were no Negro units.

Much ado was made over the American experiment that brought into being "mixed" divisions. But now that it is all over and the men are home, we find out that they weren't really mixed. The Negroes were just organized into an all colored 5th platoon under white officers and noncoms. And to add a further ironical note, when the war was over they broke up the successful experiment and sent the Negroes back to Jim Crow service units.

Therefore, it was only in Spain that the American Negro received anything like a fair treatment as a member of the Armed Forces. There a soldier was judged not by the shape of his nose, the slant of his eyes or the color of his skin but rather on his abilities. And so we found men like Paul Williams and James L. Peck flying bombers, Dr. Arnold

Donawa in the Medical Corps. In all the services of supply and transportation on a thoroughly integrated basis with their white comrades, Negroes served and in some cases commanded. In the XV Brigade a Negro commander of the Lincoln Battalion, Oliver Law, died at the head of his troops during the Brunete offensive.

It is interesting to note that while the progressive forces of America were able to break down to a large degree the discrimination against the white members of the International Brigades, no Negro former International Brigader was able to get a commission. When we returned from Spain eight long years ago, we knew that the war was not over and the period that lay ahead would be difficult. How difficult we couldn't see at the time, but after a short period of continued fascist aggression that finally inflamed the whole world and put us back into uniform, we began to find out.

And even now with the main centers of international fascism destroyed there is still no peace . . . not only internationally, but here at home. And as is always the pattern in our America, the brunt of the oppression falls on the shoulders of the Negro people. In Columbia, Tennessee we see organized looting and killing, and throughout the South wholesale persecution of returned Negro veterans. But this is not 1918. The lessons learned the hard way will not be lost. And in the forefront of the struggle will be the seasoned fighters, Negro and white, Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

He was born in Orange, N.J. to a hard-working Indian mother and Black father. Following his mother's death he “ran away” looking for work in Detroit.

In the early thirties he worked in the Chicago stockyard organizing committee where he rubbed shoulders with Poindexter and Claude Lightfoot, Communists, who introduced him to the writings of Marx, Engels, and Lenin. He later joined the Communist Party. In January, 1937 he and four other Chicagoans—two Jewish “kids” and three Blacks—sailed for Spain: among them Morris Tennenbaum, Oliver Law and James Roberson.

He came to Madrid at a time the Hitler-Mussolini-Franco fascists were threatening to capture the city. His truck of 20 riders landed at Figuerys Fort in Spain with 3 rifles between them. Most of the guys just kids out of high school, or college had never fired a shot and besides the guns were needed at the front.

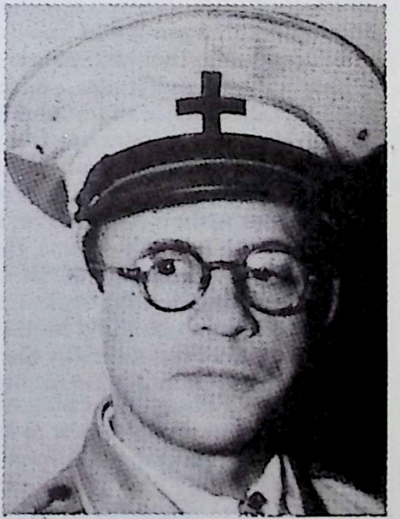
At the end of January they were rushed to the Jarama Front and issued Russian rifles. There he met some other Walter Garland a “big rascal”, Douglas Roach and an old Communist Party member whose name he can't recall.

In March of 1937, he was assigned Political Commissar to the Murcia International Hospital.

As the conditions at the front were deteriorating, the International Hospital community from Madrid was evacuated to Catalonia with three trains of wounded taken to Barcelona.

Shortly after, he was repatriated home to Chicago.

His name: OSCAR HUNTER.



He came from Harvard University, a Black oral surgeon who served with the American Medical Bureau in Spain.

Prior to his leaving for Spain, he was an active worker, organizer and campaigner collecting aid for the Spanish people.

He became the head of Oral Surgery in the Medical Corps, attending to the wounded who were struck in the mouth and face by bullets, grenades and shrapnel. It was he who first acquainted Salaria Kee with events of the time in Spain and influenced her decision to go to Spain as a nurse.

Upon his return to the United States, he continued to care for the teeth and facial wounds of the returned vets until his retirement to the Caribbean—his birthplace—where he subsequently died.
His name: DR. ARNOLD DONOWA.

"I was interested in going to Spain because I wanted to help wake the Negro up on the international field. I spoke to Negroes about helping Ethiopia and many of them would say 'I'm not an Ethiopian; I'm an American free-born Negro' which I knew was not true. So I thought here was a chance to show the Negro what role he had to play on the international field against fascism, which would give him a better understanding on how to fight against fascism on a national scale which means at home.

"This is why I saw it was necessary for me to volunteer to go to Spain . . . and when I got to Spain I found that the ideas of all the Negroes from the United States were practically the same though these men did not know one another. . ."

He was wounded on his face.

From an interview with Mack Coad in the Daily Worker February 11, 1939

Mack Coad joined the Communist Party in the spring of 1930. He went to the South as an organizer in the spring of 1931, was active in Birmingham and on a plantation in Albany and before leaving for Spain was a sharecroppers' union organizer.

He died some years ago in the United States while working as a coal miner.

It was in the city of Sagaro that the Americans first read the news that two deserters who have escaped to the United States were slandering the International Brigades before a pro-fascist Congressional inquiry. The Brigaders drew up a letter denouncing them and exposing their records in Spain.

They wrote: "In all justice, you should know about these two men. For the many months that Abraham Sobel (one of the deserters) was here, he did everything in his power to stay away from the front. He had a cowardly streak down his back. He was arrested a number of times for drunkeness, for pillaging and looting. He promised there will be no recurrence but deserted the moment he was freed. Alvin Halperin, the other deserter, known as 'Hot-Air Al' saw no front line service and was no Captain as he claims. He managed to get a slight wound from a stray bullet three kilometers behind the lines. Like all deserters, he did not come to Spain to help the Spanish people. As soon as he found out that to be in Spain meant to fight and die and no glory, he deserted like the rat he was.

This statement was signed by the wounded American volunteers at Hospital Militar No. 9 and among the first to sign this statement was MACK COAD.

He came from Cleveland, Ohio, from a sharecroppers' family in Alabama. He wore no shoes until he was 16. He became a laundry worker when he moved east. After settling in Cleveland, he joined and became active in the Communist Party, became an active leader in the Future Outlook League, a local Cleveland Black people's organization, contributed articles to the Black paper, CALL POST; was active in the Scottsboro Defense Campaign; participated in the activities in the local NAACP and the church movement and was hailed as the first Black to force the jim-crow St. Luke's Hospital to perform surgery on him. After returning from Spain he continued his activities and died in Cleveland, Ohio.

His name: ABE LEWIS.

Was an excellent and courageous soldier in Spain. Loyal, disciplined and never shirked his duties. In his quiet modesty, he performed the difficult duties of a soldier.

After being repatriated, he toured the United States under the auspices of the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion, organizing and mobilizing support for the fighting anti-fascists, Spanish people and International Brigaders in Spain. After a period of illness, he died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

His name: STERLING ROCHESTER.

He was 23 when he left Howard University. Upon his return from Spain, he received the following telegram of welcome from this famous Afro-American college:

"We are proud that one of our students was a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade (Battalion) which fought so nobly for the cause of democracy in Spain and in the world."

Signed by 34 professors and instructors.

His name: THADDEUS BATTLE

Spain was a love affair

When Hitler, Mussolini and Franco came
with ravaging hordes to conquer Spain
They pinned their hopes on hate and fear
while their great armadas filled the air

The Spaniards resisted this horrendous tide
of terror and greed and genocide
while all the "democratic" states
blockaded Spain to seal its fate

The volunteers joined in a mighty stand
from all the far and distant lands
to guard the valiant heart of Spain
and the liberty and freedom of all mankind

The Black volunteers were where they belonged
where the battle against racism and fascism was going on
to share the burden of freedom's cause
and build the bridge of solidarity and love

This tribut to our glorious fighting men
will last through the ages in time without end
and in the cause we share with them
we embrace the fighters for South African freedom

—*Vaughn Love*

Note: *The following is excerpted from an interview by Joe Mizrahi with Jim Peck in the publication WINGS Vol. II No. 4, August 1972 entitled "The Phantom Brigade." Jim Peck, volunteer in Spain was one of two Black American fighter pilots in the Spanish Republican Army—Jim Peck and Paul Williams.*

The Phantom Pilot

From today's vantage point, no period in time was more significant in the history of military aviation than the Spanish Civil War. In that conflict, combat flying emerged from the classic dogfights of WW I to set a pattern for the massed aerial armadas of WW II. Two months before he signed up for service with the Spanish Republican Air Force, Jim Peck, born in Stoopes Ferry, Pennsylvania, had never considered that his journey into that beleaguered country might have never even reached its closely watched frontier.

First came the voyage to Europe on the liner QUEEN MARY where he met another Black pilot volunteer, Paul Williams, and about 15 volunteers for the international infantry brigades. Also on the QUEEN's passenger list were authors Dorothy Parker and Lillian Hellman, going to Spain to see for themselves at first hand what their friend, Ernest Hemingway, had been writing about—a truly valid peoples' war, the common man against tyranny.

First stop on the continent was Paris. There they learned that the United States of America had just agreed to an international embargo on arms for Spain. Furthermore, unless they had official business in Spain—and they did not—their passports were not good for travel in that country.

Jim had a commerical license but since he and Paul were Black, their careers in flying had been frustrated by a climate of opinion which had limited the number of Negro pilots in the United States to a grand total of five (5) in the year 1930.

The military air services were not less racist. Despite having two years of college at the University of Pittsburgh, where he had done very well, as well as a valid pilot's license, Jim Peck's flying school applications to both the Air Corps and Navy had gained him nothing. Not only was he rejected, *but he hadn't even been given the courtesy of a reply.*

This type of frozen (racist—J.B.) indifference might have deterred and discouraged a less determined man, but Jim Peck wanted to fly, and when the Spanish Civil War broke out in the summer of 1936, his opportunity to gain combat military experience presented itself.

The opening air battles of the war, as haphazard and limited as they were, soon decimated both Franco's and the Republic's air forces but whereas the Nationalists soon received aid from Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, the Loyalists, so named because they remained loyal to the Republic, received no such aid, at first.

In the fall of 1936, large amounts of aid from Soviet Russia began to arrive. Nevertheless, the Republican air force was sadly depleted. It needed both planes and pilots and while it sent its own young nationals to Russia and France to undergo intensive pilot training courses, it needed already qualified pilots to act as a stop-gap until its own pilots were ready.

Peck pledged allegiance to the Spanish Air Ministry, rather than the Republic, thereby not jeopardizing his American citizenship.

Jim Peck's trip to Spain began on the back of a truck, which after a devious route to avoid French patrols deposited him and forty others at the foot of a range of ten to twelve thousand foot peaks.

Those that made it had reached Spain with only the clothes on their backs, nothing more. Their first steps on Spanish soil had not been auspicious.

Rounded up and put on another truck, Jim's party lurched into the mountain town of Figueras where they were housed in an old fort built by Napoleon, with thick walls and square cut embrasures which began six feet back in the stone.

The trip south to Valencia remains a blank to this day, but Peck's and Williams' welcome to the Republic's provisional capitol, now that Madrid was besieged, will never be forgotten.

No sooner had they checked in at their hotel and begun to walk around the city than they were greeted with smiles. At a downtown bar where they stopped in for some food and a drink with four infantry types, they found that six bottles of red wine miraculously appeared, compliments of the management, and they were greeted with the Republican salute, the clenched fist raised to the side of the head, at the temple.

In all, 31 Americans volunteered to fly for Republican Spain, and although they were volunteers, there never was an aerial International Brigade as such. Americans, British, German, French, Polish, Russian and other Slav nationals flew for the Republic, as did pilots from Mexico and Latin America, but although they came from everywhere and were truly international, they never belonged to an aerial international brigade or squadron, unless it was a phantom one, and were, in fact, often found serving in Spanish Republican units with Spanish nationals. Men, like Andre Malraux, who led French fliers for the Republic and even procured French aircraft, came closest to leading an international squadron, but its make-up never assumed the formality found in the more famous infantry groups.

The Russians had come to Spain in force in November of 1936, when they startled the military attaches of the world by introducing their new type plane, POLIKARPOV monoplane fighters over Madrid.

The appearance of these new, retracting gear fighters which represented the aircraft of the future, dumbfounded those experts who naively believed the Soviet Union incapable of producing new types. They were wrong about the Russian plane, as well as the quality of Russian-built aircraft.

By the second weeks of his training, Peck first met the Russians. As a group, they were aloof, they assumed Spanish names and kept to themselves, acting only as advisors, allowing the Spanish instructors to run the course. But the Russian advisors knew their business. They were superb pilots and they flew their machines all over the sky in a dazzling display.

At the new provisional capitol, Valencia, it was not uncommon for Jim Peck to lunch with Ernest Hemingway at the Hotel Repaldo, while Papa waxed both lyrically and seriously over the future of the Republic. Whatever else may be said of Hemingway, he truly believed in the Republic and was one of its unselfish supporters, giving generously of his time, money and prestige to publicize its cause.

One afternoon at the Repaldo, Hemingway was trying to convince a group of newspapermen of the justice of the Republic's fight. The big, bearish writer/adventurer pointed to Peck and his companions and, in a voice choked with emotion, which Jim remembers to this day said, tears coming to his eyes, "this is a land of peasants. You are professionals, you know machines and how to make them work. We don't. You know how to fight machines, so help us." There was not doubt

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Joe Brandt
66 West 94th Street
New York, N.Y. 10025

We acknowledge with thanks and appreciation, the help and cooperation extended to us by the DAILY WORLD photo and research department.

The expenses involved in publishing this brochure go way beyond the capacities of the few veterans who have advanced the initial cost. These few veterans are old in age, living on fixed incomes, depending on social security and on their families for additional help to exist.

To guarantee the completion of payment of the balance due on publishing and to guarantee the circulation of 5 to 10,000 copies via mailing and other methods, we are desperately in need of money. In addition to any contribution you can make, we appeal to you to order and pay for bundle copies for the libraries, media, and unemployed; or, at least a minimum of 5 copies for $2. In addition, if you wish, you may send us a list of friends you wish to receive a copy of this pamphlet, and enclose postage. We will mail this for you.

Thank you, dear reader, for your cooperation and help.

after his use of *We* and *Us* where Hemingway's sympathies lay, and no doubt that he included himself among the masses of the Spanish people.

Peck was credited with five victories in Spain, in a little less than four months of combat, all in the CHATO plane.

It was November now and Peck was a veteran. He and his squadron were certain the Republic would win the war or, at least, be able to hold its own long enough to negotiate a peace with Franco's insurgents.

Such was the prognosis, but unknown to Peck and his fellow pilots, the fates (Fascists and their English, French and US supporters, J.B.) had determined to gang up on the Republic. At a conference held that fall in Switzerland, the British government proposed that the arms embargo on all belligerents in Spain be lifted, if all "volunteers," on both sides were withdrawn. Actually, the embargo only affected the Republicans since Germany and Italy ignored it and continued pumping arms and men into the conflict, even as their ships, contributed to the "neutralist" blockade.

Stalin and Soviet Russia ignored the embargo, the Russian ships had to dodge British destroyer patrols, as well as German and Italian submarines. So successful were these forerunners of the Nazi WW II wolfpacks, that more ships loaded with trucks, Moscas, ammunition and guns, were lost off Valencia and Barcelona than arrived there with their vitally needed cargoes.

A short while later, Peck was decorated and was told simply and in so many words, "thank you for your services and goodbye." There was no warning, no inkling of his termination. All that was known was that all volunteers were to leave Spain.

What had taken place was simply this. This British proposal which would allow the arms embargo to be lifted, in return for all volunteers leaving Spain, had been accepted by both Franco and the Republic. The former accepted in order to get rid of the Republic's foreign volunteers, trained pilots in particular. Franco also accepted because he had no intention of honoring his commitment. The 7,000 man Nazi Condor Legion would stay, as would 60,000 Italian troops with all their aircraft and equipment. What would be sent home, was a contingent of 3,000 miserable and sick Italian troops, which according to Franco "would constitute substantial withdrawal and good faith."

Jim Peck and his squadron were hustled out of Spain within days. The Germans and Italians stayed, the blockade grew tighter.

When the Spanish Civil War finally came to an end in April, 1939, he knew it was only a matter of time before the so-called neutrals, America, France and Britain, would be fighting for their very lives against the same people they had allowed the Republic to succumb to.

Milton Wolff

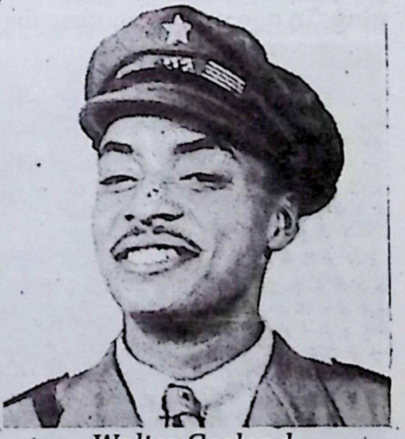
Letter from a Military Commander

by Milton Wolff*

Dear Comrades:

I want to congratulate the Committee for having selected "A Salute to the Black Americans who fought for Democracy in Spain" as the theme for our 42nd Anniversary Dinner.

The handsome program announcement bearing a sketch of the formidable Eluard McDaniel, "El Fantastico," vividly recalls the essential role Black Lincolneers played in my development and the development of so many other "kids" and "College Grads" who came to Spain to soldier for freedom —unarmed, untrained and in so many ways unprepared for the rigors of warfare.



Walter Garland

My first commander was Walter Garland, machine-gunner extraordinaire. Whatever I learned about the Maxim (machine gun) he taught me. But more important than the arts of transverse and enfilading cones of fire, he instilled in me, and such as Manny Lancer, Jack Altman and Gus Hecht, the conviction that we could go out there and take on the whole bloody, professional fascist Armies and kick the shit out of 'em. I mean we had to know that and he left no rom for doubt. It was his inspiring leadership and hero ism under fire that made it possible for us to survive the 21 hellish days of Brunete and go on from there.

---

*Last military commander of the ALB. Now adjutant commander of the Veterans' organization (VALB).

Garland pulling the wounded Leo Kaufman off a hill and himself being wounded in the process, is a scene burned into my memory; him shouting for us to take cover as he lifted the frail Kaufman in his arms, a sniper peppering the exposed crest, bringing Leo safely into the waiting arms of Sanidad and then Walter tying a handkerchief around his own wound and leading us on.

There was nothing that Captain Walter Garland could ask of me that I would not have done straight-away. My greatest personal disappointment in Spain came when he was sent back to the States after Brunete. And after Spain that he disappeared from my life altogether.

And Doug Roach instructing us on how to dig into the soft sand of the dry river-bed where the bridge passed overhead to Canada: "Use your shovels today, comrades, and you'll be around tomorrow to use your guns." And so we did and remained unharmed, each one of us though the bombs rained down for what seemed an eternity of rolling fire and earth-shaking thunder. And when the smoke had cleared it was up to the front with the Maxims repelling the enemy stunned by the improbable intelligence that we had not all perished in the inferno.

And Vaughn Love patrolling the wide open spaces where our lines had broken, a Dicterov at the ready, ammo-pans hanging from his belt telling me, "I don't know where anyone is but we gotta hold this place." "Who? You and me?" I asked. "Well," he replied testily, "I don't seen anyone else around, do you?"

Tommy Page and Charlie Parker and Admiral Kilpatrick, I remember them not as Blacks but as strong, dependable comrades—men for whom this struggle in Spain was a continuation, not a beginning. In one way or another they had "been here before."

International Brigade soldiers

First Black Commander in U.S. Armed Forces History

In early 1937, the Abraham Lincoln Battalion (ALB) has been 120 days in the Jarama sector trenches of the Madrid front.

He was the machine gun crew commander, promoted to Battalion Commander and rank of Captain. He was killed July, 1937 in the attack on Mosquito Crest at Villaneuva de la Canada front in the first Republican government offensive in Brunete.

HIS NAME: OLIVER LAW.

On February 23, 1937, at the Jarama front, Oliver was given command of the machine gun company. He was then in his early thirties. Oliver, like all commanders in the ALB, began his military leadership advancement in the ranks as a private.

Oliver Law has become the first Afro-American to command the first integrated military unit in the history of the US armed force.

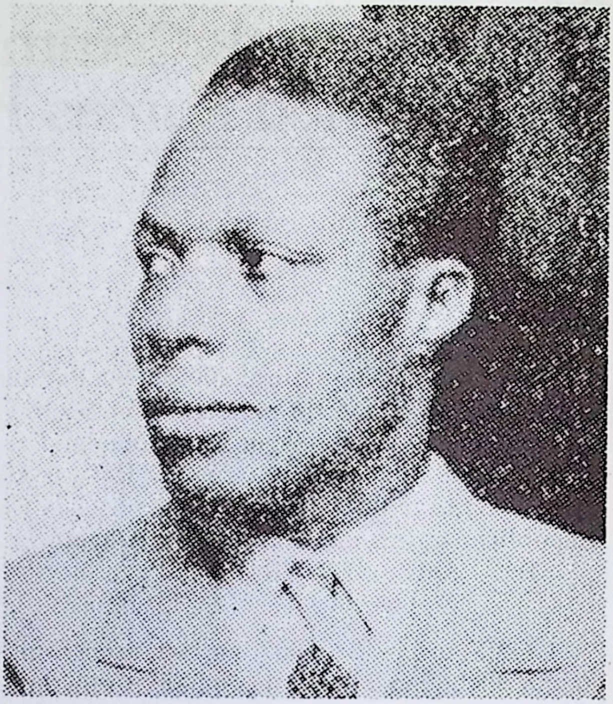
For six years, he served in the US segregated army and despite his talents, courage and leadership qualities there was no opportunity for him for advancement. He left the army as a private but after six months in Spain and under fire, he became Battalion Commander of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion with the rank of Captain.

This act becomes an historic event in the annals of Afro-American people's history, in the struggle against jim crow segregation and racism, in the struggle to eliminate the vestiges of the stink of the slave market which permeates the very depths of American society.

Oliver was a building trades worker, active fighter for free speech and Black people's rights in his native Chicago South Side. As an Afro-American and poor workingman he survived for seven years the brutal beatings visited periodically on the people of the ghetto by the notorious Chicago "Red" Squad police goons, who ruptured him in an attempt to kill him.

What the US fascist brutes did not succeed in accomplishing Hitler-Franco fascist killers did. He was killed on the fourth day of the Lincoln's action at the Brunete battle in the first major Spanish Republican army offensive July, 1937 in the Brunete sector, serving as Machine

OLIVER LAW



Gun Crew Company Commander in the attack on Mosquito Crest in Villanueva de la Canada. Serving with him on the same gun crew were two other Americans, Walter Garland and Douglas Roach.

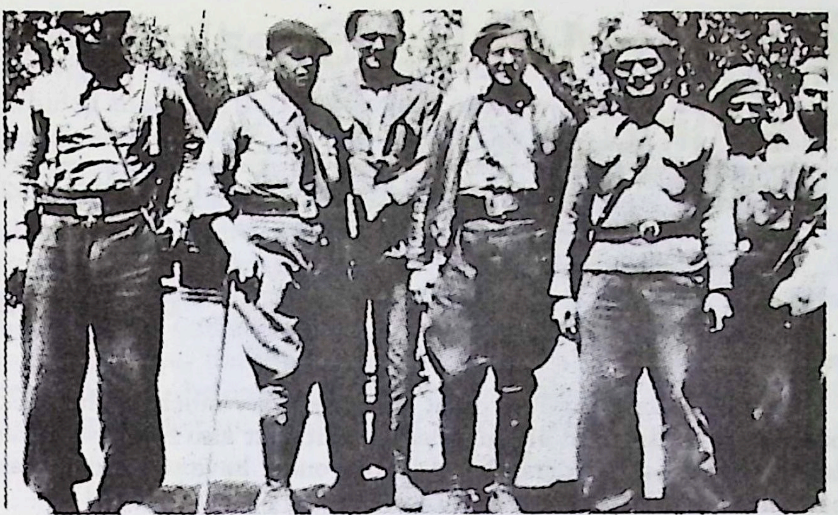
The US people, white and Black, will some day acknowledge the contributions and anti-fascist heroism of the Communist Oliver Law and all other Afro-Americans in their sacrifice in the struggle for freedom of the Afro-Americans and all peoples from capitalist oppression.

The losses suffered by the Lincoln Battalion on the 23rd of February, 1937 in the Jarama front made mandatory appointments of new commands.

The machine gun company command passed to Oliver Law, a Chicago-based Afro-American in his early thirties. His proven coolness, ability and previous experiences and his proven coolness under fire in the February 23rd attack earned him his promotion.

In her diary while visiting the VALB during the Holiday Season of 1937, the wife of Paul Robeson, Eslanda Goode Robeson, said the following regarding Oliver Law:

> "Monday, January 31. As we drove along we learned the story of Oliver Law. It seems he was a Negro—about 33—who was a former army man from Chicago. Quiet, dark brown, dignified, strongly built. All the men like him. He began here as corporal, soon rose to sergeant, lieutenant, captain and finally



Commanders of the different battalions in the XVth International Brigade. Left to right, the Black commander of the Washington Battalion, Oliver Law; Captain Saul of the French April 16 Battalion; Fred Copeman of the British Battalion, an American from Brigade HQ; the Commander of the Dabrowsky Battalion, two Spanish Battalion commanders.

> was commander of the Battalion—the Lincoln-Washington Battalion... many officers and men here in Spain considered him the best battalion commander in Spain. They liked him, trusted him, respected him and served him with confidence and willingly."

Eslanda continues to quote a story she was told regarding an incident.

> "... when the battalion was visited by an old Colonel, Southern, of the U.S. Army. He said to Law—'Er, I see you are in a Captain's uniform?' Law replied with dignity, 'Yes, I am, because I am a Captain. In America, in your army, I could only rise as high as corporal, but here people feel differently about race and I can rise according to my worth, not according to my color!' Whereupon the Colonel hemmed and hawed and finally came out with: 'I'm sure your people must be proud of you, my boy.' 'Yes,' said Law. 'I'm sure they are!'
>
> "... Law rose from rank to rank on sheer merit. He kept up the morale of his men. He always had a big smile when they won their objectives and an encouraging smile when they lost. He never said very much.
>
> "Law led his men in charge after charge at Brunete, and was finally wounded seriously by a sniper....
>
> "On the way up the hill another sniper shot Law, on the stretcher; the sniper's bullet landed in his groin and he began to lose blood rapidly. They did what they could to stop the blood, hurriedly putting down the stretcher. But in a few minutes the loss of blood was so great that Law died."

VALB Member Speaks His Mind

From letters by Benjamin Goldring, Esq.

March 21, 1979

Dear Bob:

We have been patted, and pat ourselves, very much on the back, not only for having had an integrated outfit, but also for having had Black combat commanders. Books on our outfit have stressed this aspect, not only in respect of Oliver Law but also Walter Garland.

Yet, since Walter died a few years ago, the Volunteer has carried no obit on him. The Volunteer has carried many, many obits. My understanding is that only 2, all these decades, have been on Black Vets: Joe Taylor; and one I wrote on Crawford Morgan. I knew and wrote of Morgan only as a VALB witness before SACB. I happen to have read and scanned many, many testimonies of witnesses before one or another cold-war inquisition. In my opinion, Morgan was one of the relatively very few such witnesses—irrespective of color or status—who were effective witnesses (contrary propaganda notwithstanding). This resulted from his own qualities and not because I happened to be his counsel.

That we do not know enough of Black Vets (after Spain), or know them enough, to be impelled and to be able to write an obit on their passing away, illustrates the detachment of our actual lives (of which obit-writing is simply one little reflection). In contrast, white Vets, frequently enough, have Vets close friends or associates who are able to, and do, write obits on them spontaneously.

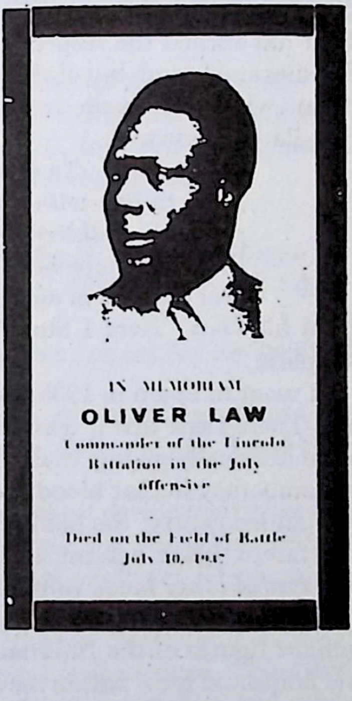
I happen to have thought for years that treating our Black Vets no differently from other Vets was error, historically and otherwise. Despite the poetry, the impulsion for most of us to go to Spain was plentifully bright and urgent. But for Blacks, crushing Hitler etc. meant returning, nevertheless, not only to oppression but also to degradation; and this was clear to us all along. In the face of this, a hundred or so Blacks from here volunteered to Spain. I happen to think that such depth of understanding marked them as a particularly special group; and I do not believe that this applies in quite the same way to almost any other group. But, in VALB, they were always so greatly outnumbered by whites (living their own separate lives) that—without a particular effort—they were bound to be wholly submerged in it in practical essence, irrespective of intentions.

When I returned from 7 years in uniform, my early jobs then included analyzing the record of convictions in 2 Black cases to check if appeals were merited. A Mississippi ex-Marine had been convicted of going on an armed rampage against whites; putting the pieces together bit by bit, from the record itself, demonstrated in fact that the whites, all armed, had encircled his and his family's house, and that from it he, armed, had kept the besiegers at bay. In the other conviction, the court-martial record itself, upon close analysis, demonstrated in fact that the white soldiers had been the aggressors in any army race riot in occupied Japan, but the Black victims had been prosecuted and convicted. What—before any official cold war—awaited Blacks after the crushing of Hitler etc. hardly needs such illustrating.

4-7-79

Dear Bob:

Your mission to Spain, *to locate Oliver Law's burial place* in the Brunete battle area, could be of large historical (& other) significance. It is alleged that Law was the first Black known ever to command in combat an essentially white American military outfit (above a fractional unit). (If so, he might be the first ever in Anglo/American armies.) If true, he is marked for historical interest, and, in this connection, could be and become the most important single Volunteer of all the Americans. Oliver Law, then, is history, qualitatively beyond the unsifted young and old soldiers' tales, and memorabilia that have colored an extent of the Vets' concept of history.



IN MEMORIAM

OLIVER LAW

Commander of the Lincoln Battalion in the July offensive

Died on the Field of Battle July 10, 1937

Black VIP's Hail ALB Anti-Fascist Fighters

Paul Robeson

During the 1930's, Paul Robeson witnessed at first hand the rise of the Nazis in Germany, and suffered their contempt for Black people as inferior. He went to Spain and sang for the Loyalist forces there, including the Black and white Americans of the ALB.

By his song and speech, by his courageous stand in travelling to Spain in 1937 to visit with the Veterans, sing with them the songs of liberty and encourage them to fight heroically—The Fascist Beast—Paul has earned the respect and love, not only of the veterans, their families and friends but of all antifascist mankind. He is the first noncombatant who was presented with honorary membership in the VALB.

Paul's credo was:

> *To be free. . . To walk the good Amerioan earth as equal citizens, to live without fear, to enjoy the fruits of our toil, to give our children every opportunity in life – that dream which we have held so long in our hearts is today the destiny that we hold in our hands.*

In his book "Here I Stand" Paul spells out his credo in reference to Spain:

"I went to Spain in 1938, and that was a major turning point in my life. There I saw that it was the working men and women of Spain who were heroically giving 'their last full measure of devotion' to the cause of democracy in that bloody conflict, and that it was the upper class – the landed gentry, the bankers and industrialists – who had unleashed the fascist beast against their own people. From the ranks of the workers of other lands volunteers had come to help in the epic defense of Madrid, and in Spain I sang with my whole heart and soul for these gallant figures of the International Brigade. A new, warm feeling for my homeland grew within me as I met the men of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion – the thousands of brave young Americans who had crossed the sea to fight and die that another 'government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.' My heart was filled with admiration and love for these white Americans, and there was a sense of great pride in my own people when I saw that there were Negroes, too, in the ranks of the Lincoln men in Spain. Some of them, like Oliver Laws and Milton Herndon, were to be

Paul Robeson in Spain.

among the heavy casualties suffered by the volunteers and would be buried with their white comrades in the Spanish earth. . . a long way from home. From home? Yes, from America, my own home, and I knew in my heart that I would surely return there some day."

* * * * *

Speaking at a rally sponsored by the National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief in Aid of the Basque Refugee Children, Royal Albert Hall, London, June 24, 1937:

"I am deeply happy to join with you in this Appeal for the greatest cause which faces the world today . . .

"Like every true artist, I have longed to see my talent contributing in an unmistakably clear manner to the Cause of Humanity. I feel that tonight I am doing so.

"Every artist, every scientist, every writer must decide now where he stands. He has no alternative. There is no standing above the conflict on Olympian heights. There are no impartial observers. Through the destruction in certain countries – of the greatest of man's literary heritage, through the propagation of false ideas of racial and national superiority, the artist, the scientist, the writer is challenged. The struggle invades the formerly cloistered halls of our universities and other seats of learning. The battle front is everywhere. There is no sheltered rear. . . .

". . . The artist must take sides. He must elect to fight for Freedom or for Slavery. I have made my choice. I had no alternative. The history of this era is characterized by the degradation of my people: despoiled of their lands, their culture destroyed, they are in every country, save one, denied equal protection of the law, and deprived of their rightful place in the respect of their fellows.

"Not through blind faith or coercion, but conscious of my course, I take my place with you. I stand with you in unalterable support of the Government of Spain, duly and regularly chosen by its lawful sons and daughters.

". . . 'the liberation of Spain from the oppression of Fascist reactionaries is not a private matter of the Spaniards, but the common cause of all advanced and progressive Humanity.' "

* * * * *

While travelling in Spain with Paul Robeson during the Christmas/New Year's holidays of 1937, Mrs. Eslanda Goode Robeson refers in her diary to the joy felt by Paul Robeson in meeting with Black American veterans and she says:

"As our car came to a standstill I noticed a young Negro soldier. He saw Paul and stopped dead and stared. When he got out of the car, he gazed, astonished, and Paul went up and spoke to him. He said he recognized Paul at once but simply could not believe his eyes.

"Many English and American soldiers, white, immediately surrounded Paul and began talking all at once. They, too were astonished, all had read about him, and many had seen his films.

"Then another Negro joined us. His name was Gibbs and he comes from Chicago. Also young, rather Indian cheek bones—Quite serious—he too knew Paul and knew about him and was astonished to see him here. Still another young Negro, Clark Bringle of Bellair, Ohio, joined us. He had been wounded at Teruel by a bullet from the tower of the church . . . He showed us the bullet which had been taken out of the wound—steel, bright, wicked-looking—about an inch and a half long.

"In Tarazona we saw lots of Negro comrades, Andrew Mitchell of Oklahoma, Oliver Law of Baltimore, Frank Warfield of St. Louis. All were thrilled to see us and talked at length with Paul.

"A meeting was arranged for us in the church by the officers. The entire Brigade gathered at 2:30 p.m. packing the church. But before they piled in they passed in review in the square for us saluting us with Salud! as they passed."

At the 36th Annual Anniversary Dinner of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion in 1973, Paul Robeson was honored with a plaque on his 75th birthday.

The plaque inscription extends a tribute to Paul Robeson's outstanding contribution to the historic struggles in defense of democratic Spain, his devotion and support to the VALB during the war and after and his continued active participation in the people's movement for Peace and Freedom of all oppressed humanity.

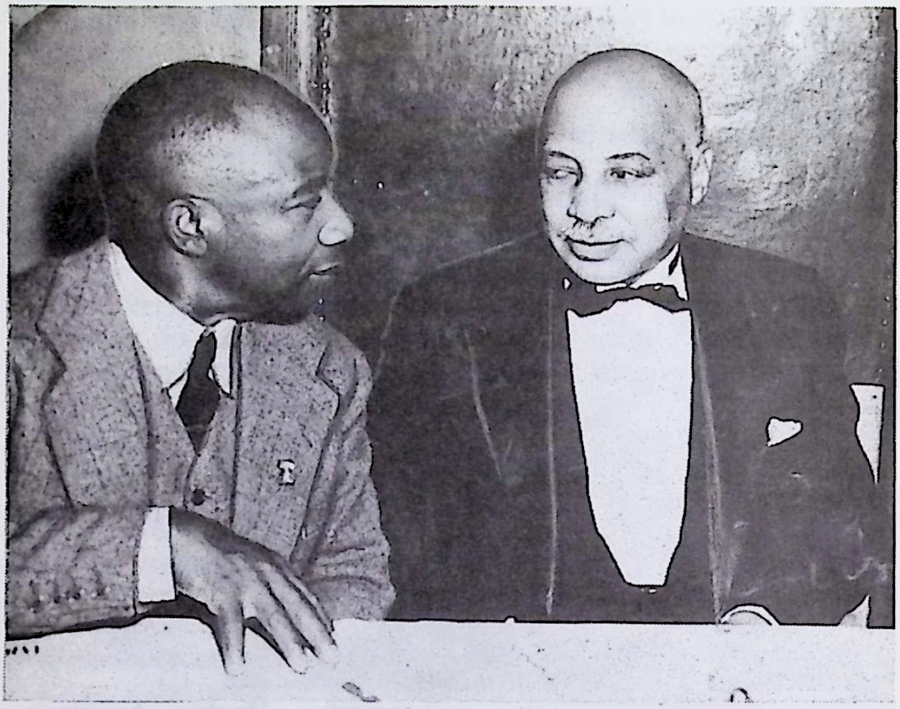
Langston Hughes

Two Cuban officers in the 46th Division conversing with Langston Hughes (center).

Langston Hughes with "Robbie" Robinson.

Langston Hughes—America's great Black poet paid U.S. veterans a visit. His inspiring poems have become a legend for all anti-fascists wherever the great battles for human rights, liberty, independence and equality adorn the banners of the front line fighters. (Two of his poems are included in the *Saga* transcript, reprinted in this pamphlet.)

W.C. Handy



Among the Black Americans in the U.S.A., the war for a democratic Spain in the 30's was not something new. During their lifetime the struggle against racism, jim-crowism, and inequality, a legacy of the slave market, has become to the Black people a source of concern.

It is, therefore, not surprising that among the American Black people, numerous Black V.I.P.'s, great numbers of Black Americans-at-large were inspired by the activities and organizations of the Communist Party, USA, and Young Communist League and other anti-fascist organizations. Many committees and organizations of aid to democratic Spain sprang into being.

The picture above from the DAILY WORKER, December 23, 1938, shows the famed Black composer, W.C. Handy conversing with Council Gobson Carter, only Black ambulance driver to serve with the American Medical Bureau units in Spain.

They are shown attending a dinner in Roger Smith restaurant where William Pickens, representative of the Negro Committee of the American Committee for Spanish Democracy reported on his recent tour of Spanish cities.

James W. Ford

James W. Ford shaking hands with ALB member, Jack Sherai—only Japanese-American volunteer.

James W. Ford, vice presidential candidate, CPUSA 1932 and 1936, was the only Black American ever nominated for such high office in the USA.

Ford visited Spain May, 1937. He was thrilled and impressed to find Black Americans together with white anti-fascists, chalking up an unforgettable page in the history of struggle against fascist oppression.

In his book "The Negro and the Democratic Front" he describes how he met Ethiopian volunteers and they gave him a message for the people at home that they were fighting for those principles of democracy which the Black Americans have been upholding in the USA for more than a century.

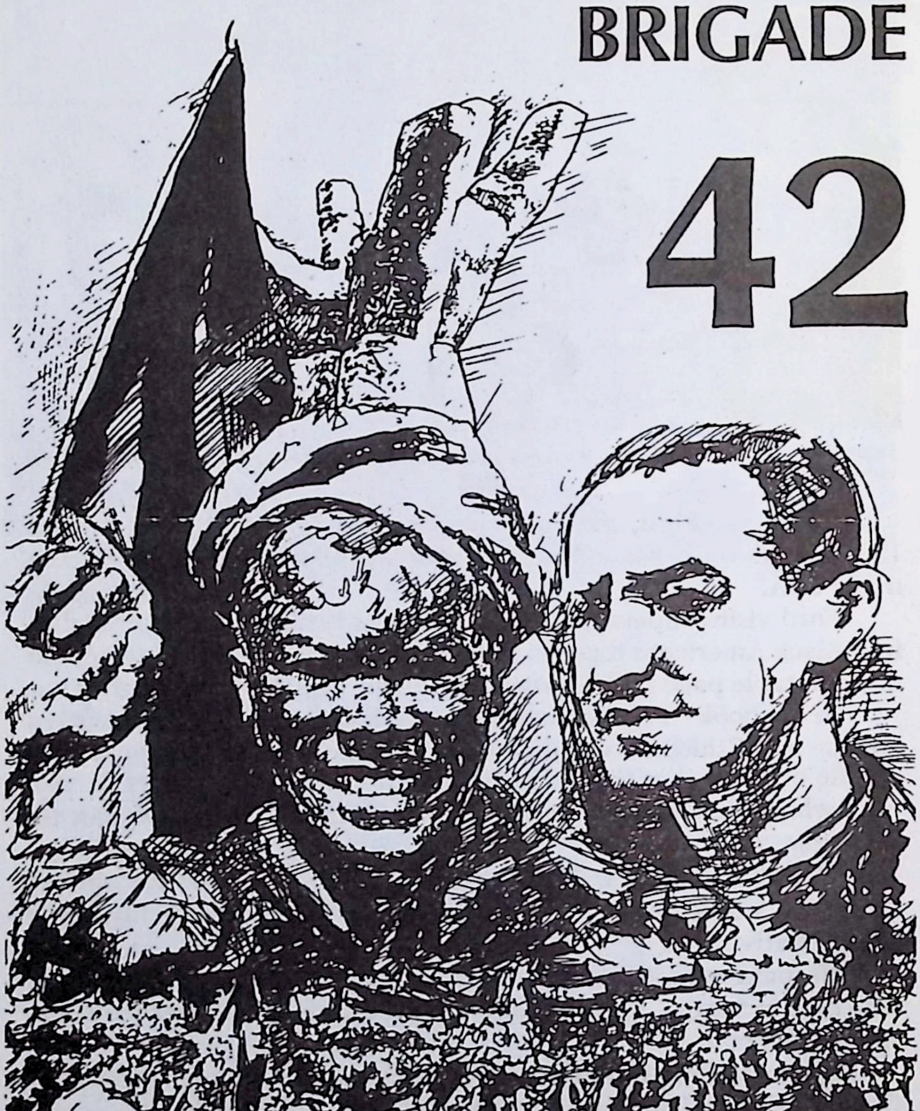
The Ethiopian warriors stated that the fight in the trenches of Spain was a continuation of the anti-Italian struggle for the liberation of their native land.

He paid exceptional honor and tribute to the Black Americans who died in Spain—Alonzo Watson, Oliver Law, Milton Herndon, and Harry Wickman.

James W. Ford was proud of the Black machine-gunners, especially *Captain Oliver Law*, the Lincoln Battalion Commander who came from Chicago. His training, his coolness under fire, his ability as a leader, lifted him out of the ranks and put him into command; he was a leader—he was a disciplinarian.

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE

42



*"In her first speech at the outbreak of the Civil War, Dolores Ibarruri (commonly referred to as 'Pasionaria') sounded a clarion call to her people to take up arms and defend their democracy—'vale mas morte depie, que vivir de rodillas' which means 'better to die on our feet, than to live on our knees.' "

'You Are History'

by Dolores (Pasionaria) Ibarruri

It is very hard to say a few words in farewell to the heroes of the International Brigades, both because of what they are and what they represent.

A feeling of sorrow, an infinite grief catches our throats . . . Sorrow for those who are going away, for the soldiers of the highest ideal of human redemption, exiles from their countries, persecuted by the tyrants of all peoples . . . Grief for those who will stay here forever, mingling with the Spanish soil or in the very depths of our hearts, bathed in the light of our everlasting gratitude.

You came to us from all peoples, from all races. You came like brothers of ours, like sons of undying Spain; and in the hardest days of the war, when the capital of the Spanish Republic was threatened, it was you, gallant comrades of the International Brigades, who helped to save the city with your fighting enthusiasm, your heroism and your spirit of sacrifice.

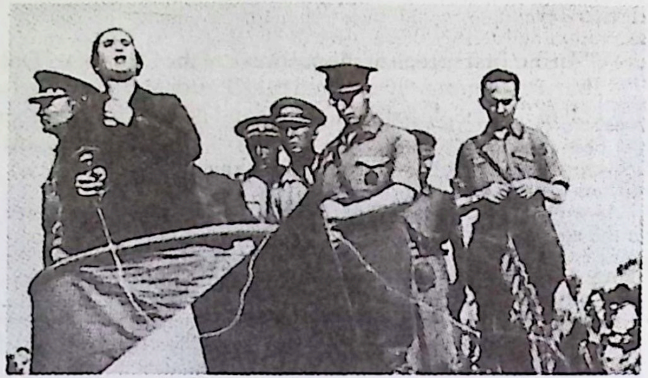
In deathless verses Jarama and Guadalajara, Brunete and Belchite, Levante and the Ebro sing the courage, the self-sacrifice, the daring, the discipline of the men of the International Brigades.

For the first time in the history of the people's struggles, there has been the spectacle, breathtaking in its grandeur, of the formation of the International Brigades to help save a threatened country's freedom and independence, of our Spanish land.

Communists, Socialists, Anarchists, Republicans—men of different views and different religions, yet all of them fired with a deep love for liberty and aspirations . . . And they asked us for nothing at all. That is to say, they did want a post in the struggle, they did aspire to the honor of dying for us . . .

Banners of Spain! . . . Salute these many heroes! Lower Spain's banners in honor of so many martyrs! . . .

Mothers! Women! When the years pass by and the wounds of the war are being staunched; when the cloudy memory of the sorrowful, bloody days returns in a present of freedom, peace and well-being; when the feelings of rancor are dying away and when pride in a free country is felt equally by all Spaniards, then speak to your children.



Dolores Ibarruri addressing International Brigade soldiers

Tell them of these men of the International Brigades.

Tell them how, coming over seas and mountains, crossing frontiers bristling with bayonets, and watched by raving dogs thirsting to tear at their flesh, these men reached our country as crusaders for freedom, to fight and die for Spain's liberty and reached our country as crusaders for freedom, to fight and die for Spain's liberty and independence which were threatened by German and Italian Fascism. They gave us everything; their loves, their countries, home and fortune; fathers, mothers, wives, brothers, sisters, and children, and they came and told us: "We are here. Your cause, Spain's cause, is ours —it is 'the cause of all advanced and progressive mankind.' "

Today they are going away. Many of them, thousands of them, are staying with the Spanish earth for their shroud, and all Spaniards remember them with the deepest feeling.

Comrades of the International Brigades. Political reasons, reasons of state, the welfare of that same cause for which you offered your blood with boundless generosity, are sending you back, some of you to your own countries and others to forced exile. You can go proudly. You are history. You are legend. You are the heroic example of democracy's solidarity and universality, in the face of the shameful, "accomodating" spirit of those who interpret democratic principles with their eyes on the hoards of wealth or the industrial shares which they want to preserve from any risk.

We shall not forget you, and when the olive tree of peace puts forth its leaves again, entwined with the laurels of the Spanish Republic's victory—come back! . . .

Come back to us. With us those of you who have no country will find one, those of you who have to live deprived of friendship will find friends, and all of you will find the love and gratitude of the whole Spanish people who, now and in the future will cry out with all their hearts:

"Long live the heroes of the International Brigades!"

Farewell Speech to the International Brigades,
Barcelona, September, 1938

Forty Second Anniversary: A Tribute

Tribute was paid to the Black Americans who, in the 1930's, joined the International Brigades of volunteers in support of the heroic fighting people for a democratic Spain.

Attending the 42nd anniversary dinner on February 25, 1979 in New York city, were the surviving veterans representing 350 to 400 in the USA. Joining with them were members of their families, including their children and grandchildren.

In the audience were many hundreds of working class fighters including Henry Winston, National Chairman CPUSA, who devoted many years supporting the Spanish people in Spain and VALB, and James Steele, young Black President of the Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL).

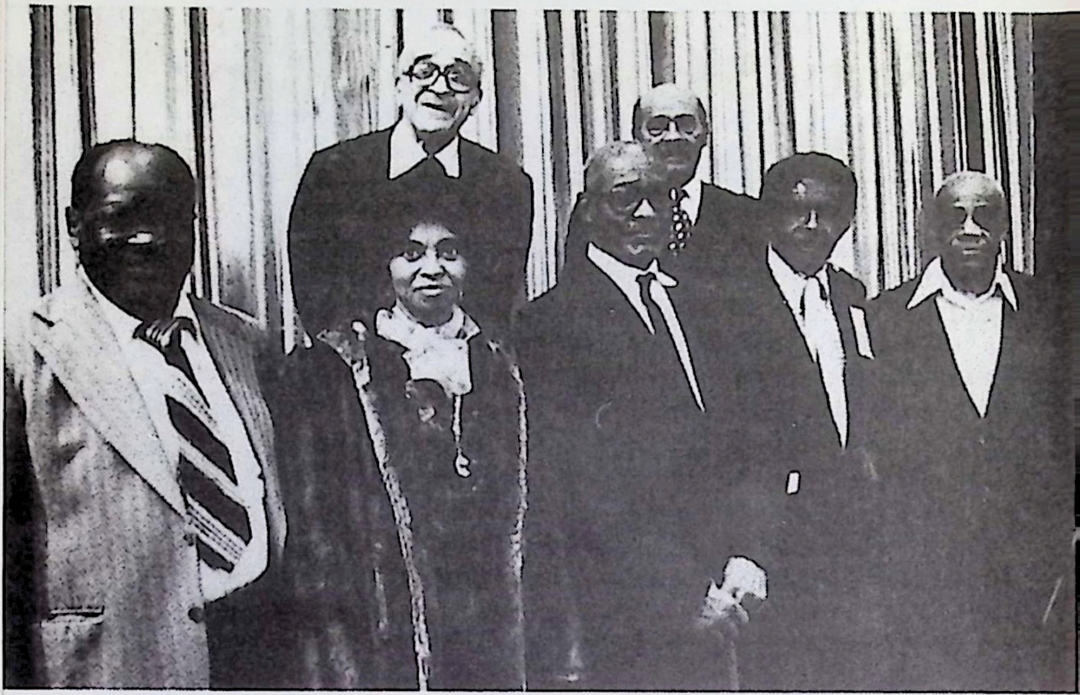
Numerous greetings were read: Among them a moving greeting from Dolores Ibarruri "Pasionaria" the courageous Spanish Communist woman leader who symbolized and led the united efforts of the Spanish and world peoples' resistance to fascism.

A greeting was received from the head of the Cuban veterans organization and a telegram of greetings from the Soviet Anti-Fascist Fighters Veterans, Spanish Section.

Among the highpoints of the cultural program was Pete Seeger who was among the first to come to the aid of the veterans and the Spanish people's anti-fascist war, who together with two other members of the original Weavers group rendered the memorable songs of the VALB sung in the front lines of the Spanish Civil War.

The Honorable George Crockett, Jr., Judge, Recorders Court, Detroit, Michigan, and one of the chief defense attorneys in the Smith Act frame-up trials of the Communist leaders in the McCarthy era, hailed the Black veterans as "champions of democracy, anti-fascists and prophetic visionaries, symbolizing the meaning of commitment and courage in giving their lives to the cause." He noted that this commitment was expressed at a time when Blacks in the USA were struggling for their dignity and their existence. The vets, he declared "recognized instinctively the revolutionary equation between fascism and racism and saw that resistance and struggle were the only guarantors of peace, liberty and justice." He paid warm tribute to Salaria Kee O'Reilly, the only Black American woman who served as a volunteer nurse and was wounded three times.

Joining with him as a guest of the dinner was Juana Dona, a Com-



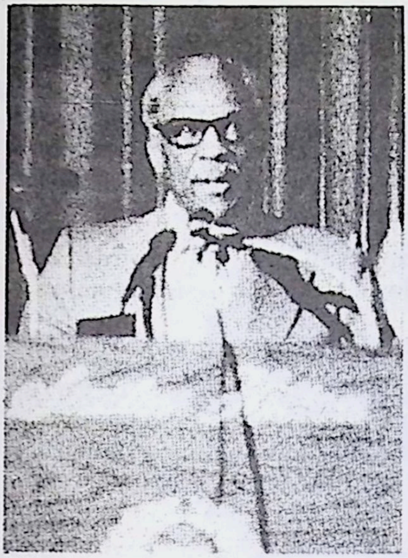
Left to right: Front row—Luchielle McDaniels (Bay area), Salaria Kee O'Reilly (Akron, Oh.), Pat Roosevelt (N.Y.), James Yates (N.Y.), Chisholm (Seattle). Back row: Oscar Hunter (N.Y.) and Vaughn Love (N.Y.).

munist Party senatorial candidate in the Spanish elections, who spent 18 years in Franco's prison. She paid tribute to the Lincoln Vets and the Black vets in particular.

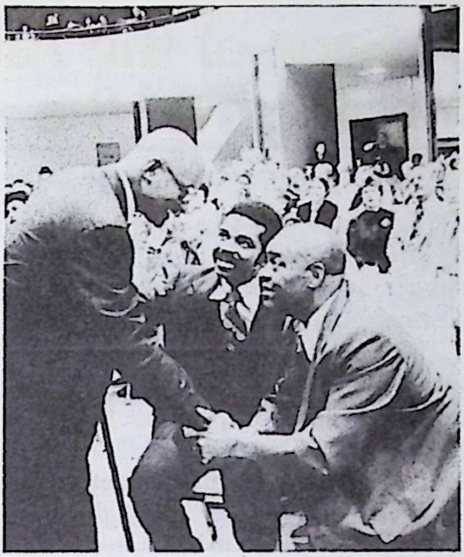
Introduced to the audience was Vinie Burrows, Black actress and playwright; Scott Garen, young film-maker who helped in the production of a Lincoln Battalion documentary on television. He was presented with an award by the VALB.

Presented as the finale of the program was a filmed documentary titled, "Saga of the Afro-American Soldiers of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade (Battalion)," produced by Antar Sudan Katara Mberi, Black workingclass poet, member of the Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL) and Lucha Hamilton whose narration reflected the spirit of those stirring times.

Henry Foner, president of the Furriers Joint Board acted as master of ceremonies.



Hon. George W. Crockett, Jr.



Henry Winston, National Chairman, CPUSA, and James Steele, National Chairman, Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL), greet veteran Pat Roosevelt.

Saga of the Afro-American Members of the ALB

The saga ofthe Afro-American members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade remains one of the brightest chapters in U.S. military history, though the truth of their role in the nation's history is basically an unwritten and ignored one.

This history begins with Crispus Attuck's death, the first colonial and Afro-American to fall in the 1776 war of independence. In every U.S. war, Afro-Americans fought and distinguished themselves, despite the continued denial of their full rights to citizenship at home.

It is within this historical context, the fight for full rights, that Afro-Americans volunteered as fighters to cross the ocean, climb the Pyrenees and enlist in the International Brigades. Together with the white Lincolns, they were U.S. citizens of a special kind. They came out of the struggles of the 30's; out of the deep crisis brought on by the Lords of Big Business.

Afro-Americans, the first fired, the last to be hired, the most hungry—and among the first to fight back, joined by the progressive white, working community, organized against Big Business' offensive. They were brutalized by vicious racial terror and legal attacks. But, aided by the Communist Party and the International Labor Defense (I.L.D.), as in the cases of Scottsboro and Angelo Herndon, they would emerge victorious.

These were the years when fascism and racism, finding champions in Hitler and Mussolini, were beginning to move their forces against humanity. The first assault was the bombing of Ethiopia. Enraged by this bombing, Afro-America rose up. To attack Africa was to attack itself. They also saw the stark parallels between fascism and racism. Therefore, the call to fight in Spain became a call to fight the bombers of Ethiopia and Hitler's Condor Legion, allied behind Franco.

And so, they answered the call.

[Narrator:] December 26, 1936. Christmas barely hours gone. The weather, cold. Winter just settling down to severe days laced in icy blasts of wind. Holiday ornaments still aglitter in the windows. The harbor, quiet; later a boat pulls away from its dock. A month barely passes; and a second boat leaves with passengers bound for the same destination. Small groups of passengers followed on boats week after week. The destination, Spain.

On each of these boats the faces of young men, bright, anxious, Black, brown, and mostly white faces, gleam in the moonlight as they whisper to each other. Others stare off into dark distances, as if expecting to see what they can't see—their futures, and the land they're heading for, many for the first and last time. Many will never see the receding shores and loved ones again. Others will return, armless, blind, legless, or crippled. Still, each face embroiders the moonlight with youth, words and silent convictions.

Such were the first days of the 3500 Black, brown and white men and women, who joined the International Brigade's ranks, as the Abraham Lincoln Battalion, during the Spanish "civil" War. Of the total number, close to 100 are known to have been Afro-American.

Langston Hughes, poet emeritus of the oppressed, and the nation's literary conscience, captured best their convictions in his poem

HERO — INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE:*

[Voice:]

Blood,
Or a flag,
Or a flame
Or life itself
Are they the same:
Our dream?
I came.
An ocean in-between
And half a continent.
Frontiers,
And mountains skyline tall,
And governments that told me NO,
YOU CANNOT GO!
I came.
On tomorrow's bright frontiers
I placed the strength and wisdom
Of my years.
Not much,
For I am young.
(*Was* young,
Perhaps it's better said –
For now I'm dead).
But had I lived four score and ten
Life could not've had
A better end.
I've given what I wished
And what I had to give
That others live.
And when the bullets
Cut my heart away,
And the blood
Gushed to my throat
I wondered if it were blood
Gushing there.
Or a red flame?
Or just my death
Turned into life?
They're all the same
Our dream!
My death!
Your life!
Our blood!
One flame!
They're all the same!

---

*"Hero – International Brigade," Langston Hughes. From *Good Morning Revolution*

[Narrator:] A quiet, moon-shining night greeted the volunteers slipping across the Pyrenees Mountains. A cool mountain air stirred the dry leaves. No snow or ice was visible, except what could be seen on distant peaks. The volunteers sworn to silence and no smoking could only hear the hard crunch of dead leaves underfoot. To talk or light a match was to risk discovery by the French police patrols sealing the border to such crossings.

The first and second waves of Lincolns arrived in winter's midst. Alonzo Watson, Douglas Roach, Oscar Hunter, Walter Garland, and Oliver Law, were the first Afro-American Lincolns to reach Spain. All would play leading roles in the months ahead. Others would arrive: Crawford Morgan, Milton Herndon, Salaria Kee, Barney Rucker, and Aaron Johnson. History would record their deeds. They came from all walks of life; different parts of the U.S.; each with varied levels of conviction and understanding as to why they were there, in Spain.

They were Communists, socialists, trade unionists, unemployed, unorganized, organizers of the unorganized, lynch-law fighters, and community activists. Abe Lewis, Vaughn Love, James Yates, Charles Parker, Pat Roosevelt, Luchell McDaniels, Basilio Cueria, Youngblood Nance, Admiral Kilpatrick, Sterling Rochester and Amos Archer – certain factors cast them together, almost as one. They came from similar struggles; some had met during them. Scottsboro. Herndon. Hoovervilles. Hunger Marches. Lynchings. They represented the nation's deepest convictions, and were an inseverable, if unrecognized, link in the best, richest traditions of its history.

Alongside their white fellow countrymen, they would lock horns with fascism in Jarama's bloody valley. Jarama would become their Lexington–Concord, where these Afro-Americans and whites, the nations finest sons, would lay down their lives.

At Jarama, Alonzo Watson would earn the nickname "Crispus Attucks", as the first Afro-American to be killed fighting fascism, defending democracy in Spain. Alonzo, slight and quiet in his mannerisms, was a son of struggle. He saw fascism as they all did, as the personification of racism. He had volunteered to fight in Ethiopia, but the war ended. When the call came for volunteers for Spain, where Mussolini's troops, emboldened by Ethiopia's defeat, had been sent, Alonzo answered.

With Alonzo was Walter Garland, who told newly arriving volunteers of Alonzo's death just hours before their arrival. Garland himself was to achieve an impeccable combat record before returning home. A brilliant combat instructor as well as dauntless machine gunner, he would receive two wounds leading his men at Brunete. One white Lincoln would later say of Garland:

[Voice:] "My first commander was Garland. He instilled in me the

conviction that we could go out there and take on the whole professional fascist armies and kick the shit out of 'em. He, and other Black Lincolneers played an essential role in the development of...so many...'kids' who came unarmed and untrained...for the rigors of warfare."

[Narr:] Oliver Law, Roach and Hunter were also at Jarama. Garland and Roach would both serve as section commanders under Law, who became the first Afro-American ever to command an almost all-white military unit. That this was possible was attributable to the high degree of equality and understanding among the battalion as a whole. The battalion was indeed the first fully integrated military force in U.S. history.

Law led his troops into battle at Brunete, and like Alonzo, gave his life so liberty and freedom could live another day. Harry Fisher, a white Lincoln, saw him fall:

[Voice:] "I was at Battalion H.Q. in the morning with Oliver Law...We knew we were to attack and take the ridge, which was about 600 meters away...10 o'clock...We crossed the ravine...all hell broke loose, machine guns, rifle fire, everything. We hit ground hard ... wounded and dying all around...Oliver Law got up...twenty yards ahead of us...yelling and waving his pistol. 'O.K. fellows, let's go. Let's go. Let's keep it up. We can chase them off that hill. We can take that hill. Come on!' He got hit just about then. Some of the guys pulled him off the field, but he died before he could reach the hospital."

[Narr:] After Brunete came Teruel, Quinto-Belchite and Fuentes. It was at Fuentes, that Milton Herndon, older brother of Angelo Herndon, was killed in much the same way as Law. He'd left his cover to aid one of his wounded men; while dragging the helpless man to safety, death overtook him. The Lincolns bore his death heavily.

Tall, handsome, quick to learn, Milton had displayed all the vitality of youth and leadership. He'd shared many qualities with his brother, Angelo. Both had a deep respect and appreciation for their people's culture. The Mac-Paps, who were mostly Canadians, with whom he served as a machine-gun section commander, and the Lincolns, remembered his ability to explain the most complex situations by utilizing the rich folklore of his people; a folklore steeped in social anecdote and metaphor.

The Lincoln's reputation swelled on all fronts – fighting, medical, transport, and commisary.

Salaria Kee, the only Afro-American woman among the less than fifty U.S. doctors and nurses, had come from Harlem. A nurse at the front, she distinguished herself as a humanitarian, giving her skills to Spain. Spain has not forgotten her.

Dr. Arnold Donawa became the head of oral surgery in the medical corps, responsible for repairing the bullet, grenade and shrapnel torn mouths and faces of the Internationals. After returning to the States he would continue to care for the Lincoln Vets' teeth, until retiring to the Caribbean, his birthplace, where he has since died. History sings his saga.

Their names were many in these units: Albert Chisolm, Nathaniel Dickson, Knute Frankson, chief mechanic of the International Garage; Thaddeus Battle of Howard U's medical school; Joe Taylor, Young Communist League leader from Harlem; Oscar Hunter, who, after entering the hospital, wounded, became a hospital commissar; and Edward Johnson, head of the general food commissary.

Thomas Page, one of eight to escape Brunete, summed up why he and the rest came to Spain:

[Voice:] "Well it was like this... When those bastards Mussolini and Hitler joined up with Franco, I felt it was time for me to do something more than just protest. If it could happen there (in Spain), the same thing could happen here (in the U.S.) . . ."

[Narr:] The war rolled on. The Republic limped beneath the "nonintervention" blockade imposed by the League of Nations.

Defying the blockade, some ships from the Soviet Union and Mexico broke through, bringing much needed munitions, foodstuffs and other necessities. The Afro-American and white Lincolns, fighting alongside German, Soviet, French, Italian, Irish and Balkan Internationals, welcomed the supplies. All appreciated these demonstrations of internationalism.

The Loyalists' and Internationals' ranks, decimated by the ever-swelling Axis forces pouring into Spain, shrank drastically. Cities crumbled beneath blankets of bombs. Lands lay gutted, crops unpicked, destroyed. The cream of Spanish youth shot down. The old, killed mercilessly. The living remained undaunted. Seasons passed reeking with wasted life, carnage and burning rubble. The war rolled on.

And so did the brigade transport units; often to within yards of blazing enemy guns, beneath enemy aircraft. They were responsible for delivering vital munitions, evacuating the wounded, getting materials to the hopsitals, and guaranteeing food reached those soldiers fighting in the frontline trenches. Many met death behind the wheel, zigzagging between mortars.

Vaughn Love and James Yates were Lincolns destined to survive Spain. Vaughn Love had come out of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, active in defense of the Scottsboro youths and Herndon. Yates had come to New York from Chicago, after signing 100 others to help start the Dining Workers Union. He'd continued organizing in New York. During Ethiopia's invasion Yates went from drugstore to drugstore collecting medical supplies to send to Ethiopia's aid. Unable to get to Ethiopia before its conquest, he joined the Lincolns heading for Spain. Scheduled to leave with the first wave of Lincolns, he was delayed due to passport problems—the birth of Afro-Americans went unrecorded in Mississippi.

Two major voices of the artistic world and the Afro-American press also came—Paul Robeson and Langston Hughes.

Robeson had come to serve the Cause at the front. A giant of a man among the troops, in stature and voice, his spirituals and work-a-day songs brought great uplift to all. Robeson would later become the first of five Honorary Members of the Brigade; and its only Afro-American member.

Hughes had come representing the Afro-American press. He travelled briefly with Robeson, and later with Nicolas Guillen, father of modern Cuban poetry. Hughes captured the Brigade's spirit, the Spanish people's unflagging resistance, and what it meant to be in Spain, witness to fascism's brutality. It was Hughes who first asked the question so many are asking today:

[Voice:] "Who were these Afro-Americans who, like Law, Herndon, Garland, Donawa, and Abe Lewis, left their peaceful U.S.A. for a war zone in a foreign country, coming of their own free will to Spain? Nobody made them come. They were not conscripts like the Moors, or mercenaries—the money was next to nothing. They were not professional soldiers like the Germans, or draftees like the Italians. They came of their own free *will. A number died there.*

"Who were they? There were a hundred or so that I talked with in the various hospitals, or on the Ebro front, at Albacete, Valencia, Tarazona, and Madrid. . . Their names cannot tell us who they really were. . . But they were in Spain. . . Afro-Americans. History has recorded it. Before that time, the leading ambassadors of the Afro-American in Europe were jazz band musicians, concert artists, dancers or other performers. But these Afro-Americans in Spain were fighters— voluntary fighters—*which is where history has turned another page."*

[Narr:] Before history's page turned, William Pickens, National Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, would come to Spain. James Ford also came representing the Communist Party, which had organized the Lincolns to go to Spain. They visited the front, meeting the U.S. fighters, some from their organizations.

Thyra Edwards, head of the Chicago Youth Center, came to deliver an ambulance bought with money raised by the members of the Center.

When the International brigades were ordered home by the Republic, history had turned another page, and that page began turning for the Afro-American Lincolns the moment it became clear they were heading home, back to Jim Crow, U.S.A. There had been only equality in the Brigade; it would be impossible to accept second-class citizenship upon returning; and accept it they didn't. James Yates recalls his return:

[Voice:] "One hour after I was off the boat I went to a hotel... the Grand on 30th Street and Broadway... When it came to me, I was told, 'Sorry, all rooms are sold out, we don't have anymore available.' Now there were Black and white Vets on line behind me. The protest began. At its end, I was told by the management they'd find me 'someplace' to sleep... on the floor, I thought. We all left. I knew I was back."

[Narr:] Thomas Page remembered his return, too:

[Voice:] "Spain was the first place I felt like a free *man. Leaving Spain was one of the saddest days of my life. Just the thought of going back to Jim Crow, America made me sick! Like me, you realized that after Spain our struggle was at home, just as it was before we sailed for Europe."*

[Narr:] Right-wing reaction was already growing when the Lincolns disembarked upon returning from Spain. All their passports were confiscated by the government. The Brigade was placed on the Un-American Activities "Blacklist". Crawford Morgan, Joe Taylor and other Afro-American Lincolns joined the fightback, finally getting the government to drop all the illegal charges against them.

Soon World War II opened, but not before many bitter memories of yet other betrayals and denials of their legitimate claims to first class citizenship would be added to the nation's ignominy. Armed Forces integration experienced in the Lincolns was scuttled. Still, many Afro-Americans enlisted to continue the unfinished war. Vaughn Love was one:

[Voice:] "I volunteered to fight for Loyalist Spain because there was a principle involved. But now in this great world war—it's also a question of life or death."

[Narr:] Wounded three times in Spain, he trained many fine combatants for World War II. Garland, Taylor, Crawford Morgan and Page also enlisted to continue the unfinished war.

History has turned many pages since then. And today, many Afro-American Lincoln Vets can say they witnessed fascism's defeat in Spain, with a nominal democracy returning to its people. They know Spain has not forgotten them. As Langston Hughes so eloquently wrote in "Tomorrow's Seed":

[Voice:]
"Proud banners of death — *Frank Alexander*
I see them waving — *William Baker*
There against the sky, — *Vernold Beebe*
Struck deep in Spanish earth — *Milton Braxton, Tom Brown*

Where your dark bodies lie
Inert and helpless—
So they think
Who do not know,
That from your death
New life will grow.
For there are those who cannot see
The mighty roots of liberty
Push upward in the dark
To burst in flame—
A million stars—
And one your name:
    Man
Who fell in Spanish earth:
Human seed
For Freedom's birth."

Walter Callum
Council Carter
Mike Chowan
Roland Cleveland
Mack Coad
Walter Cobbs
Tomas Callado, Leroy Collins
Walter Dicks, Larry Dukes
Walter Garland, Eugene Gavin
Henry George
Theodore Gibbs
Gerald Goldwyn
Meredith Graham
Centurio Gutierrez, George Harvey
Milton Herndon
John Hunter
Salaria Kee
Admiral Kilpatrick
Oliver Law
Charles Lewis
Norman Lisberg
Alonzo Watson

[Narr:] No, Spain has not forgotten her dark sons and daughters of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

And neither must we!

Neither must we!

Neither must we!

Neither must we!

Luchell "El Fantastico" McDaniels
Andrew Mitchell
William Moore
Burt Jackson
Edward Johnson
Richard Johnson
Crawford Morgan
James Peck
Claude Pringle
Alpheus Prowell
Marcus Ranson
Otto Reeves
Virgil Rhetta
James Robinson
Julius Rodriguez
Oliver Rose
Gonrado Rosario

CREDITS: Ruth Singer, Visuals Producer; Lucho Hamilton, Narrator; Antar Sudan Katara Mberi, Scriptwriter and Director; V.A.L.B., Producers.

Racism— The Stink of the Slave Market

by Joe Brandt

Racism is a legacy of the slave market. Its continued existence must be exposed and it must be eliminated from the social fabric of our nation and people.

The veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion (VALB) volunteered and continued the struggle against racism with arms in hand when they gave battle to fascism in Spain.

Between 80 and 100 Black Americans with the other American volunteers, took up arms and staked their lives on Spain's battlefields. They left limb and life in the Spanish earth, dipped their heroism in their own blood and in that of the wounded and carried others off the battlefields — Black and white — and some died from bullets while doing so.

These Black volunteers knew that a fascist victory would enhance the fascist danger and with it intensification of racist oppression at home.

The Black volunteers in our brigade had known the lash of exploitation and oppression. These men had suffered the stink of the slave market long before they confronted the fascist racists. They were determined to help stop this madness.

By their heroic action they played a unique role in raising the level of understanding by all veterans of fascist barbarism.

* * *

Racism had emerged as a weapon of exploitation and oppression in the early years of our country's development as an independent nation — witness the genocidal history of our relations with the Indians, robbing them of their lands, natural resources, livestock and personal possessions.

Racism continued as the chief weapon in the history of slavery in the U.S. when the oppressors used the state force, and its superstructure — including religion, the imposed illiteracy, and the most terroristic forms of physical torture — above all, extreme exploitation — to try to impose slavocracy on the entire young nation.

Racism from the beginning was a built-in pillar of the superstructure of capitalist society.

Racism in the stage of monopoly capitalism, controls the economic, political and social power in defense of its class interests. Racism keeps the people divided on racial, national, ethnic lines, competing for jobs, for educational facilities for their children, for professional training and job upgrading.

In 1970, Irving Sloan, a social studies teacher, educational consultant at Columbia University Teachers College and author of "Our Violent Past," published a survey on "The Treatment of Black Americans in (9 leading) Current Encyclopedias." Needless to say, the survey showed distortions, misinformation and omissions of important facts in Black American history.

According to Lerone Bennett, Jr., a leading Black historian, this academic "treatment" has had terrible repercussions, and can be described as the fourth "R" in American education—*racism.* This racism, Bennett said, "is expressed in terms of segregated classrooms, but also in terms of learning materials which *omitted altogether or distorted* information and ideas about the Black Americans. The price for this in American education now cannot be calculated, while the crisis continues unabated." (emphasis mine—JB)

There are other racist aspects of our social system:

- racist attacks on affirmative action—Bakke, Weber, and now Fullilove;
- racist fire-bombings of Black families' homes;—widespread KKK terrorism.
- racist outright murders of Black children and youth by racist killer-cops racist killer-cops then declared "innocent" by "law enforcement" agencies;
- racist job practices—Black workers last to be hired and first to be fired;
- racist campaigns against integrated education, whether via busing or other means, exacerbated by the media and by public officials, including congressmen and senators.

The press and other media are used to poison people's minds, featuring examples of senseless violence, drug addiction, degeneracy and corruption, and using such incidents to slander all Black youth and other oppressed people. To this day we still hear the racially derogatory terms applied to Blacks and to different national-minority groups. Such racist and national-chauvinist slurs pit one group against another—native against foreign-born, white against Black—and operate against any developing unity of Blacks and whites in the struggles for Black liberation and for a better life for all people.

Racism, regarded by the apologists of the status quo as being eternal, they unashamedly orate about "our way of life" as being superior to other ways of life.

In doing so they defend the damnable system of exploitation and racist oppression.

These practices have had negative effects and consequences not only for Blacks but, above all, on Black-white unity, basic to the fabric of our society. For the struggle against racism and for Black liberation is a distinct but not separate feature of the general class struggle for eventual freeing of the entire working class from capitalist exploitation; it is an integral, inseparable component of the continued struggle for full economic, political and social equality of Black people, including the entire range of issues, tactics and programs that affect the struggle for justice, equality and liberation of all nationally oppressed people.

It is our U.S. racist policies and our ruling class's support of racism abroad that serve to estrange national groups and disrupt previously developed friendly relations. Black communities that struggled shoulder-to-shoulder with the Jewish-American people against discrimination, jimcrow, lynching and anti-Semitism are embittered by the actions of some Zionist organizations and their leaders in support of our government's racist policies in conducting foreign policy in the Middle East.

U.S. racist policies drove out of office UN Ambassador Andrew Young, a Black. And U.S. racist opposition to Palestinian independence has received unqualified support from our country's pro-Israel lobby and pro-Zionist congressmen and senators and their allies in public office.

Black people, in the main, see the Palestinian struggle for independenced and nationhood, for the return of their occupied lands and the withdrawal of Israeli military occupation forces, as a struggle against racism.

However, a distinction must be made: the U.S. Jewish community includes not only the Zionist leaders and groups that support expansionist policies of the government of Israel, acting as the U.S. imperialist ally, but also a *great mass of non-Zionist Jewish-Americans* who must not be diverted from a united struggle for Black liberation and against anti-Semitism in the U.S.A.

Racism must not be allowed to weaken or destroy the long-term cooperation and joint struggle for social progress of the U.S. Black and Jewish peoples, among whom there had emerged and matured a strong bond of friendship, cooperation and support for each other's struggles, a joint movement of resistance against white chauvinism.

The struggle against racism in the U.S. and for Black liberation is replete with examples, including the campaigns against lynchings, the fight for the freedom of framed Black people, especially in the South—the Scottsboro case, the Herndon and McGee cases, and many others. The great struggles for civil rights bring to mind not only the assassinaton of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but also the murders of numerous civil rights activists—Black and white. There are the historic battles—to free Angela Davis, to expose the slaughter of the Attica prisoners by Rockefeller, against the Wilmington Ten frame-up and other frame-ups, and there is now the Natonal Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR), the chief organized resistance movement in the battle against racism and the struggle for Black liberation.

Racism cannot be totally obliterated while capitalism rules—the entire superstructure must be done away with—but racism can and must be fought whenever and wherever it rears its ugly head. Such anti-racist struggles can become the beachhead of Black-white unity in the struggle for the elimination of the racist system, and—more than that—these struggles inspire the oppressed peoples fighting for independence and against racism and apartheid in South Africa, Zimbabwe and other enslaved, neo-colonialist lands, raising international solidarity to greater heights.

We are Americans in a U.S.A. organization. The struggle for peace and security raging here affects all of us, and as anti-fascists, anti-imperialists, the struggle to help wipe out racism is especially our concern.

All of us at the 42nd Anniversary in New York stood united behind our Black fellow fighters, and we stand united behind our Black fellow workers here in the U.S.A. at home AGAINST RACISM—FOR BLACK LIBERATION.

The strength we possess we have because we proved that men and women in difficult times could, whatever their differences, unite to oppose fascism. That unity is necessary today, against racism.

We VALB vets and non-vets who continue to oppose fascist imperialist reaction, colonialism, the "fat cat" multinationals and their chief weapon RACISM—we will once again find UNITY indispensable to fight our common enemies:

U.S. IMPERIALISM!
RACISM!
ATOMIC-HOLOCAUST MADNESS!

PARTIAL & PRELIMINARY LISTING OF BLACK VETERANS IN ABRAHAM LINCOLN BATTALION AND 15TH INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE

Alexander, Frank Edward
Archer, Amos
Baker, William
Battle, Thaddeus Arrington
Beebe, Vernold
Brown, Tom
Callion, Walter
Carter, Council Gibson
Chesterton
Chisholm, Albert Edward
Chowan, Mike
Cleveland, Roland
Coad, Mack
Cobbs, Walter
Collado, Tomas
Collins, Leroy
Cox, James
Cueria y Orbit, Basilio
Dicks, Walter
Dickson, Nathaniel
Donowa, Arnold Bennett
Dukes, Larry Stratford
Frankson, Kanute (Oliver)
Garland, Walter Benjamin
Gavin, Eugene Victor
George. Henry
Gibbs, Theodore
Goldwyn, Gerald
Graham, Meredith Sydnor
Gutierrez, Centurio
Haywood, Harry
Harvey, George
Herndon, Milton
Hunter, John P.
Hunter, Oscar Henry
Jackson, Burt Edward
Johnson, Aaron Bernard
Johnson, Edward
Johnson, Richard
Kee, Salaria
Kilpatrick, Admiral
Law, Oliver
Lewis, Abraham
Lewis, Charles
Lisberg, Norman
Love, Vaughan
McDaniels, Eluard Luchell
Mitchell, Andrew
Moore, William
Morgan, Crawford
Page, Thomas
Parker, Charles Augustus
Peck, James Lincoln Holt
Pringle, Claude
Prowell, Alpheus Danforth
Ransom, Marcus
Reeves, Otto
Rhetta, Virgil
Roach, Douglas
Rochester, Sterling
Rodriguez, Julius
Roosevelt, Patrick
Rose, Oliver Charles
Rosario, Conrado Figueroa
Rucker, Bernard
Seacord, Douglas
Swanson, Weat
Taylor, Daniel Bede
Taylor, Joseph
Thornton, Ralph
Trent, Tom
Verdier, Herbert
Warfield, Frank
Waters, George Walter
Watson, Alonzo
Weiderman, Jefferson
White, Edward
Wickman, Morris Henry
Williams, Fred
Williams, Paul E.
Willis, Sam
Yates, James
Youngblood, Charles

Ever since 1939 we have talked about preparing a history of the more than 80 Black Americans who were volunteers in the Lincoln Brigade.

With the assistance of the VALB Historical Commission, I have obtained a list of Blacks and some additional data about them.

I have been conducting research in our archives and in libraries and have begun recording and writing recollections of surviving vets.

I need the help of *all* vets and non-vets: in getting additional information about Black comrades they knew in Spain, especially those who were killed there. Perhaps you have photos, letters, or even know the whereabouts of the relatives of deceased Black veterans, or perhaps you can recall an incident, or knew a Black volunteer prior to 1937, etc., etc.

Please send, direct to me, any recollections or information you may have.

Comradely,

James Yates
415 West 25th Street
New York, NY 10001

In preparing this publication, we referred a great deal to the following for information and facts:

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2. *Here I Stand,* Paul Robeson, Othello Associates Publishers, 1958
3. *Paul Robeson—Tributes—Selected Writings,* 1976
4. *The Heart of Spain,* Edited by Alvah Bessie, VALB Publishers 1952
5. *The Lincoln Battalion,* Edwin Rolfe, VALB Publishers, 1939
6. *Men In The Ranks,* Joseph North, Friends Abraham Lincoln Battalion Publishers, 1939
7. *A Negro Nurse in Republican Spain,* Negro Committee to Aid Spain, Medical Bureau North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy Publishers
8. *The Abraham Lincoln Brigade,* Arthur H. Landis, Citadel Press, 1967
9. *The Book of the XV Brigade,* Frank Ryan, February 1, 1938. Records of the British, American, Canadian and Irish Volunteers in the XVth International Brigade in Spain 1936–1938
10. *International Solidarity with the Spanish Republic 1936–1938* by Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.–Soviet War Veterans Committee Spanish Section, Progress Publishers

Pictures, Correspondence and Memorabilia from J. Brandt Collection

NOTE:

*There were five brigades in all. The Eleventh known as the *Thaelmann Brigade* composed of German anti-fascists Communists in the main including escapees from concentration camps. The *Twelfth Brigade* known as the *Garibaldis* consisted of Italian anti-Fascists. The *Thirteenth Brigade* was composed of Slavic-speaking anti-fascists made up of Poles, Czechs, Bulgarians, Hungarians, Romanians, Yugoslavs and other east Europeans. They went under the name of the *Dombrowski Brigade. The Fourteenth* Brigade was composed of French and Belgian anti-fascists. The fifth and last brigade organized in January, 1937 at Albacete was the *Fifteenth Brigade.* The English-speaking brigade composing the *British Battalion,* the Canadian Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion, the *59th Spanish Battalion* composed of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican and South American volunteers, and the *Abraham Lincoln Battalion* (ALB) made up of volunteers from the United States of America.

> "In the United States itself, the 15th Brigade in its entirety was usually referred to as the *Abraham Lincoln Brigade.* In this context what was actually meant was not so much the brigade itself but the (Abraham Lincoln Battalion—ALB) or total grouping of Americans in Spain who were scattered throughout the various international auxiliary units including the *John Brown Field Artillery Battery,* and the *Washington Battalion* which was an integral part of the ALB. The final result of this complexity was that a dual procedure was used by the American press, radio, and other information media: in all areas of combat the men were referred to as the Abraham Lincoln *Battalion;* where American volunteers in general were being dealt with they were referred to as the Abraham Lincoln *Brigade."*

The Abraham Lincoln Brigade
by Arthur H. Landis, Citadel Publishers

The PALETTE and the FLAME

edited by John Tisa

introduction by Luigi Longo
critique by Anthony Toney

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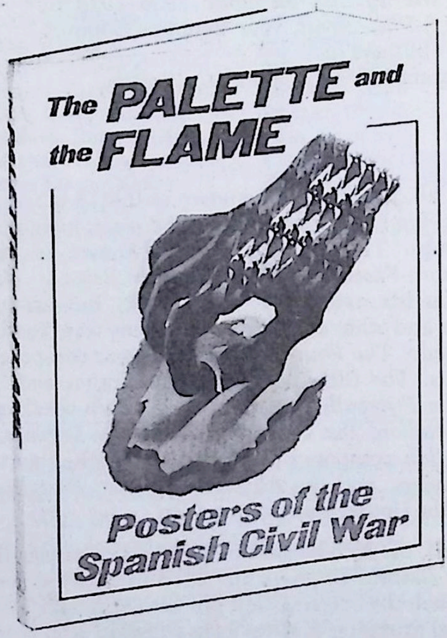
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